

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
460,000

No 63,063

Upsurge of violence in New Caledonia puts pressure on Chirac

Cabinet crisis talks on eve of French poll

From Susan MacDonald, Paris, and Christopher Morris, Sydney

France flew military reinforcements into New Caledonia yesterday after three gendarmes were killed and 27 captured by Kanak separatists.

The rebels' action turned the troubled Pacific territory into an election crisis issue on the eve of the French presidential polls.

M. Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, held a two-hour emergency Cabinet meeting in Paris yesterday and then briefed his election rival, President Mitterrand, on the situation by telephone.

M. Bernard Pons, the Minister for Overseas Territories, denounced "these serious events carried out by a squad of 30 terrorists".

The eruption of violence

put the problem of the South Pacific French territory on the centre stage of French politics.

Three gendarmes were hacked to death and two seriously injured early yesterday morning, when men armed with hatchets and guns attacked the gendarmerie headquarters at Fayaoué on Ouvéa Island.

Two police wives with their children witnessed the violence, thought to have been carried out by Kanak extremists seeking independence, who then captured the remaining 27 members of the squadron and took them off into the dense surrounding bush belonging to indigenous Melanesian tribes.

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Violence, thought to have been carried out by Kanak extremists seeking independence, who then captured the remaining 27 members of the squadron and took them off into the dense surrounding bush belonging to indigenous Melanesian tribes.

Paris responded by recently increasing its paramilitary police presence in the territory to some 3,000 men.

Yesterday, another 200 gendarmes were flown from France to New Caledonia, including a 20-man special intervention force. The Government promised to re-establish order before voting tomorrow, but mobile police reinforcements were yesterday still searching for the 27 missing gendarmes.

M. Chirac, in a radio interview yesterday, denounced the attack on the gendarmes as a "terrorist act" by groups which benefited from the aid of certain foreign countries that supported international terrorism. In an obvious reference to Libya, he admitted that the Government had not been able to halt this support, but he predicted that the hostages would be freed quickly.

M. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the extreme right-wing National Front and its candidate in the presidential election, declared that he was scandalized by the Government's "kid-glove" approach in New Caledonia. He declared: "If I am elected president, French New Caledonia will be defended as it ought to be."

M. Pons said the attack was

the work of an uncontrolled extremist element, at whose head was a person who had been trained in Libya.

M. Lionel Jospin, the Secretary General of the Socialist Party, announced that his organization deplored all acts of violence but that this latest outbreak showed once again the gravity of a crisis that M. Chirac's policies had aggravated by allowing the continuing domination by one ethnic group over another.

M. Chirac responded by accusing the Socialists of always supporting the pro-independence Kanaks.

A recent referendum in New Caledonia, boycotted by the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) independence movement, resulted in a majority vote for the territory remaining French. At the time, M. Mitterrand warned against a situation where the opinions of a minority were smothered.

Violence between the indigenous Kanaks and pro-French Caldoches was at its worst during 1984 and 1985 when the Socialists were in power. A Socialist plan to give the indigenous Melanesians (43 per cent of the population) a greater say in local government led to a beginning of dialogue between moderates of both sides.

Since then, the referendum and the drawing-up of new regional divisions have re-established the status quo in favour of the pro-French majority. Following the referendum, one of the FLNKS leaders, Mr. Yvonne Yvonne, was temporarily imprisoned, charged with inciting violence.

In February, a similar attack against a gendarmerie post in the territory resulted in 20 people being injured and nine gendarmes being held hostage for 14 hours.

In Sydney, Mr. Jacques Boenighe of the Kanak Association for Economic and Cultural Development, claimed that the recent deaths of young Kanaks at the hands of the French forces had led to the raid. "The Kanaks have had enough," he said. "Their only solution is to fight back. The Kanaks are not destabilizing New Caledonia and the Pacific. It is the French who are to blame. We warned there would be violence, but we don't want to see any more killings."



An injured Kanak being lifted from a plane yesterday after clashes between French gendarmes and Kanak separatists.

MPs to back Thatcher in dispute on sterling

By Martin Fletcher and David Smith

An influential all-party committee of MPs is to produce a report on Monday which supports the Prime Minister in her dispute with Mr. Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, over exchange rate policy.

The Treasury and Civil Service committee is expected to say that the Bank of England, in adding \$20 billion (£0.5 billion) to the official reserves last year in an effort to hold down the pound, recorded a book loss of £1.3 billion.

This was because most of the addition to the reserves was in dollars, and the dollar declined in value in spite of action by the major countries to stabilize it.

The Tory-controlled committee will call for greater disclosure by the Treasury of the Bank's foreign exchange operations and is expected to argue that intervention on the scale of last year cannot be sustained over the long term. Intervention was only acceptable in the short term to overcome temporary problems.

In this the committee will be clearly aligning itself behind Mrs. Thatcher's contention in the Commons shortly before last month's Budget that "you can't buck the market".

The Chancellor, in evidence to the committee last month,

defended the policy of attempting to hold sterling stable, saying that it was perfectly compatible with an overall anti-inflationary stance.

Pressed by the committee for details of the Bank of England's possible losses on intervention, the Chancellor and his Treasury officials said that such information would be used by the financial markets to second-guess the actions of the authorities.

Unlike in Germany, where the Bundesbank has to declare profits and losses on its currency intervention operations,

the Bank of England is under no such obligation. Bank and Treasury officials argue that it is meaningless to talk of profits or losses on foreign currency intervention until such time as any reserves taken on to hold down sterling are spent in supporting it.

Thus, it is possible that the present book losses on last year's intervention could turn to profits if the pound weakens significantly and the Bank is forced to support it.

Even so, there are indications that the Treasury, aware of the effect of the dollar's decline on the value of the reserves, is keen to switch an

increasing proportion of the reserves into other currencies. Some of this switching may already have occurred.

The report is based on three sessions just before Easter when the committee questioned Mr. Lawson and Mr. Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, as well as Treasury officials.

It is to be published on Monday on the eve of the second reading in the Commons of the post-budget Finance Bill and seems certain to re-open the controversy over exchange rate policy.

The Treasury and Civil Service Committee, one of the leading Commons select committees, is chaired by Mr. Terence Higgins, a Conservative MP, and has six Conservatives to four Labour and one Social and Liberal Democrat MP.

In February this year it fuelled the National Health Service debate with another of its traditional annual reports, this time on the public spending White Paper, in which it called for higher spending on the NHS and for the Government to fully fund the agreed nurses pay awards. However, the press conference to launch that "unanimous" report was marred by political sniping between Tory and Labour members of the committee.

Continued on page 24, col 1

Hope of arms treaty stalled

From Our Correspondent Moscow

The chances of a strategic arms treaty being signed at the next Reagan-Gorbachev summit evaporated yesterday after Mr. George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said that outstanding problems still remained.

But Mr. Shevardnadze said a document could be signed by President Reagan and Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev at next month's Moscow summit if both sides fail to conclude a strategic arms treaty in time.

At a news conference after holding two days of talks with Mr. Shultz aimed at preparing for the summit, Mr. Shevardnadze made it clear that he did not expect the treaty to be ready in time because of the difficult and complicated work involved.

"If it's not ready, some kind of document could be drafted where we could formalize the progress made," Mr. Shevardnadze said. "Sooner or later, I am sure we will be able to complete this accord, and we will have another history-making achievement."

Mr. Shultz said that both sides had not yet given up trying to conclude a treaty in time for a summit. He said he

Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev and Mr. Yegor Ligachev, the Kremlin number two, smiled and chatted during a rally in Moscow yesterday in a display of unity that seemed to quash rumours of a big split in the Soviet leadership. — Page 7

and Mr. Shevardnadze would make new efforts to reach agreement at a meeting next month.

As to whether the ministers had decided that completing a treaty was impossible by the end of next month, Mr. Shultz said: "We haven't said that to each other." But he added: "It gets more difficult as time goes on. We remain determined to keep at it... so that the summit will have a solid substantive component to it."

Mr. Shultz's statement concerning lack of progress on the strategic arms treaty providing for 50 per cent cuts in US and Soviet long-range missiles, was not unexpected. Mr. Reagan said on Thursday that he doubted if an agreement could be reached in time.

Mr. Gorbachev also indicated before opening three hours of talks with Mr. Shultz yesterday that in his view the negotiations were "marking time".

In response to a question about Mr. Gorbachev's comment and Soviet criticism of the US approach, Mr. Shultz said: "From our standpoint

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THE STOCKWATCH

● This week The Times introduces STOCKWATCH, the most comprehensive financial information phone-line service in Britain — free to Times readers. And in the Stockwatcher competition there are unit trusts worth £50,000 to be won: details, page 31

INSIDE
Poll tax 'is sole gift of Commons'

Lord Hailsham, the former Lord Chancellor, refuses in a letter to The Times today widely canvassed suggestions that amendments to the community charge can be made in the House of Lords.

He says such suggestions are contrary to his understanding of the constitution. The community charge is the "sole gift of the Commons" under the constitution as it now exists, he says. Letters, page 11

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Labour tackles cash crisis

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A radical four-year plan designed to tackle the Labour Party's financial crisis and double its membership is to be put to party leaders on Monday.

The party, facing a deficit of more than £2 million by the end of the year, aims to raise £6 million from trade unions to fight the next general election campaign.

The rescue plan has been drawn up by Mr. Larry Whitty, the party's general secretary, after discussions with Mr. Neil Kinnock and the general secretaries of all the main trade unions.

They plan includes a national Labour Party membership list, cut-rate membership fees for trade unionists, rises in affiliation fees and a big direct mail fund-raising drive.

Mr. Whitty's plan will be put to a meeting of the finance and general purposes committee which on Monday will also receive a report from independent auditors

underpinning the grave state of the party's finances.

Peat, Marwick McLintock, appointed to investigate the finances at the insistence of the party's bankers, say that the party faces a deficit of more than £2 million by the end of the year.

Mr. Whitty's proposals, which have general backing from union leaders and the party leadership, will go before the ruling national executive committee for approval in principle next Wednesday.

At their heart is the plan to turn Labour into a mass party with a larger membership more representative of the public.

Mr. Whitty is to recommend a phased increase in trade union affiliation fees, the sum paid to the party by unions for each of their levy-paying members, from 75p to 90p per member in 1991.

In a far-reaching move designed to build up funds for the general election to £6 million, he is proposing a

special additional payment of 20p per head this year, rising to 35p in 1991.

This is aimed at avoiding the last-minute scramble for funds which Labour usually faces before an election. Often the burden is felt to fall unfairly on the shoulders of the main unions.

Mr. Whitty also proposes that there should be a mandatory quarterly payment of affiliation fees to improve the party's cash flow.

The big unions have agreed to underwrite a £300,000 loan from the Unity Trust Bank for membership drive. A huge direct mail operation is aimed at bringing in £800,000 to £1 million by 1991.

A national computerized membership list is planned. Mr. Whitty suggests that trade unionists who pay the political levy to the party should be able to join the party for £5 instead of the £10.60 the present 300,000 members pay.

No-strike pledge led to nurses' rise

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The nursing profession earned its big pay increase because of the pledge taken by most nurses not to strike, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Mrs. Thatcher, speaking after visiting a Nottingham factory, denied that the Government had been pressurized by industrial action by some

nurses in February into making the average 15.5 per cent award.

She said: "I want to make it absolutely clear the reason we gave the nurses a pay review body was because the Royal College of Nursing had never gone on strike."

"There never would have been a pay review body at all but for the high standards maintained by the RCN, who say, 'However strongly we feel, we will never take it out on the patients'."

The college reaffirmed its support for a no-strike policy by an overwhelming majority in a ballot of its 260,000 members last month. "Those nurses would never have got this award but for the no-strike policy reaffirmed by the RCN", Mrs. Thatcher said.

She made clear she was drawing a distinction between the RCN and other health service unions. The Government and the RCN alone had drawn up a new clinical grading structure which was referred to the pay review body, without mentioning the involvement of the rest of the staff side representatives.

"We have always felt that people in that position should never suffer because they cannot use the strike weapon or they are too conscientious to use it. I hope it gives them the feeling it is not only government but everyone who has

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Minister's silent slip falls betwixt cup and lip

By Sheila Gann Political Staff

Sunday lunchtime drinkers look set to gain an extra hour's opening time because of a minister's slip.

Lord Ferrers, who recently returned to the front bench in the Upper Chamber, tried to force a vote on an amendment in the Licensing Bill allowing public houses to close at 3pm instead of 2pm.

He duly shouted "not content" when the question was put. But his was the only voice against it — which led to the question being put again. On the second call Lord Ferrers thought his Whips would speak up and so sat silent. The result was approval for the amendment without a vote.

The Licensing Bill is back in the Commons where MPs will soon decide

the issue. But yesterday Westminster sources made clear that the Government is willing to live with the change and Conservative MPs will not be "whipped in" to throw out the Lords' amendment.

The Home Office has been holding consultations with the "Sunday" lobby and believes the change in the hours will not cause too much fuss.

The Government has no strong objection to the extra hour, although it had deliberately shied away from changing the Sunday session for fear of stirring up the Keep Sunday Special lobby.

The thirteenth Earl was asked to return as deputy leader of the Lords, and 'become a Home Office Minister, to boost the front bench on the retirement of Lord Whitelaw. Lord Ferrers, who is popular and imposing and enjoys a penchant for practical jokes, has openly

admitted he had meant to oppose the amendment and slipped up.

The change in the Sunday public house opening hours also creates anomalies. For instance members of clubs immediately pounced on the Home Office demanding an extension so that they too can open for six and a half hours on the Sabbath, instead of five and a half hours.

Lord Ferrers acted more quickly with an amendment on extending the clubs' opening hours. He forced the issue to a division — and won.

However, in so doing, he managed to antagonize members of Britain's 1,400 Conservative clubs as well as those in golf, working men's and other sorts of clubs.

Public houses in Scotland will not come under the Licensing Bill.

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War game terror in restaurant

A former pupil at Millfield, Britain's most expensive public school, who terrified restaurant staff during a "war game" was ordered to do 100 hours community service at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. Lance Cope, aged 21, and three other former Millfield pupils, donned blackface helmets and brandished toy guns, terrorizing staff at a restaurant on the A3 near Guildford, Surrey, after an unofficial school reunion.

Cope, a petrol station manager, of Wild Acres, Blakedown, Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester, was also conditionally discharged for 12 months after admitting possessing an imitation firearm while criminally damaging road signs belonging to Surrey County Council. Julian Walder-Smith, aged 20, of The Old Timbers, London Road, Send, near Guildford, an accountant who had also been remanded on bail for reports after admitting the same offences, did not appear in court. The other two were ordered on March 22 to do similar community service.

MP mace summons

A solicitor was granted permission yesterday to bring a private summons against Mr Ron Brown, Labour MP for Leith, for damage he allegedly caused to the House of Commons mace earlier this week. Mr John McMillan, of Telford, Shropshire, was granted permission by Telford magistrates to bring a summons under Section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act, which carries a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment and a £2,000 fine. The summons, which alleges Mr Brown damaged the mace or was reckless as to whether it would be damaged, is returnable at Telford on June 3.

Baby in taxi mix-up

A baby boy was in the care of social services yesterday after being put in a London cab on Thursday and sent to an address that allegedly did not exist. The taxi driver, who was given £5 by a couple in Old Brompton Road, west London, handed the boy, aged between six and eight months, to Fulham police. The baby was later claimed by a woman who said she had asked the driver to take it to its grandparents in west London. Hammersmith and Fulham council said it would be questioning the woman and a man before the baby was returned.

£40,000 spent in fear

A casino cashier who thought he would die from Hodgkinson's disease took more than £40,000 from the Hove Sporting Club and the Sergeant Yorks Casino, Brighton, where he worked, and set off on an 18-month spending spree. Lewes Crown Court was told yesterday, Michael Portus, aged 40, of Viaduct Road, Brighton, was jailed for 18 months after admitting stealing £40,861 from his employers, Pleasureland. The court was told his mother and two aunts had died from the hereditary disease. Portus had stolen the money after his sister and brother also contracted the disease.

Brothel woman fined

A woman child care officer employed by Birmingham City Council went into partnership to open a brothel for extra money, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday. Mavis Dennis put £9,000 into a massage parlour with a market trader, Patrick McLaren, in Newtown, Birmingham, where prostitutes operated. Dennis, aged 32, of Charnwood Close, Frankley, Birmingham, admitted exercising control over prostitutes, and McLaren, aged 47, of Hanging Lane, Northfield, admitted living on immoral earnings. Each was fined £2,500 and given three-month suspended sentences.

£25,000 benefit trick

A devoted son swindled the Department of Health and Social Security out of more than £25,000 by keeping his mother's death in 1982 a secret for five years. Every week while she was alive Kenneth Kelley collected her benefits. He retired early and spent all his time looking after her and buying her presents. Yesterday at Liverpool Crown Court Kelley, aged 66, admitted 10 specimen offences of theft and deception and asked for 183 similar offences to be considered. He was jailed for 18 months, with 12 of them suspended.

Actor cremated

The funeral of the actor Kenneth Williams was held in private yesterday. Among friends who attended were Barbara Windsor, Gordon Jackson, Stanley Baxter and Gerald Thomas, the director of the *Carry On* series, were among the mourners at St Marylebone Crematorium, north London. Mr Williams, who was aged 62, was found dead at his home in Regent's Park last Friday.

Grade defends party conferences axe

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

Channel 4 is cutting its coverage of party political conferences because "nobody watches", Mr Michael Grade, the station's chief executive, said yesterday.

He defended his decision to scrap the normal half-hour programme and retaliated at criticism levelled at him by Mr Peter Mandelson, the Labour Party's director of campaigns and communications.

Mr Mandelson, who is

referring the issue to Labour's national executive, said he hoped the cutback was not the first casualty of Mr Grade's "retreat" from Channel 4's public service commitments.

Mr Grade said Channel 4 would be providing live coverage of the party leaders' main speeches, and the evening news would be extended "by some minutes" to provide a considered round-up of the day's conference proceedings.

"If BBC pulled out we would consider filling the gap

but it seems absolutely pointless for two broadcasting organizations to go and cover the conferences live."

Mr Anthony Simmonds-Gooding, head of Britain's planned TV satellite service, British Satellite Broadcasting, spoke yesterday of the wide range of films which will be beamed into homes but said they will not include pornography.

He hopes BSB's subscription film channel, Screen, will be able to show the equivalent

of anything available in video shops.

He said: "We will do nothing that does not have the support of the Independent Broadcasting Authority."

The Screen channel will be one of three available to British viewers who pay about £200 for an aerial dish, the size of a dinner plate. A parent control button will enable adults to decide what their children should be allowed to watch.

Police were called yesterday to control angry demonstrators as P&O European Ferries confirmed it was planning to ignore the three-month strike which has halted its cross Channel operations from Dover and begin a limited service next week with non-union labour.

A mass meeting yesterday rejected the company's final pay and conditions offer and voted to continue the strike.

After meeting union officials, Mr Graeme Dunlop, managing director, said: "Nothing has changed. The mass meeting was addressed by

people who must try and justify why they have led an unnecessary 12-week strike and why they have adopted an irresponsible and destructive attitude to the clear wish of the majority."

"We are rostering ships. We are going back to sea."

Mr Dunlop said that a "hotline" telephone number would remain open for strikers who wanted to accept the new terms of employment.

P&O, which had been planning to sell its Dover fleet if the impasse continued, is now trying to recruit non-union

workers to take advantage of the lucrative summer trade.

The company says that nearly 1,000 employees, almost 60 per cent of the strikers, have accepted the final offer, designed to end restrictive practices and put ratings, depending on grade and length of service, on salaries of between £11,500 and £17,400 a year.

Union leaders dispute the numbers who have signed new contracts. They gave a warning that any strike-breaking ferries would be "blackballed" by port workers.

On Sunday evening, a month before first night, the cast were phoned at their homes to be told that she had left. Officially the NT says she had herself grown "increasingly unhappy" in the part but it is clear that the decision that she must go was Sir

rehearsing three long plays simultaneously and staging them on one set in the National's smallest theatre.

The actor Ian McKellen, a former associate director of the National who starred in Sir Peter's 1985 production of *Coriolanus*, said yesterday: "I think that any problems there at present have to be seen in the context of how terribly difficult it is to stage these three plays in such a short period of time."

In November, while the productions were still at the workshop stage, theatre professionals were amazed by his choice of Miss Miles to replace Miss Wendy Morgan, his original

member of the delivery of tomorrow's *South Bank Show* on London Weekend Television.

Doubts about Sir Peter's casting had been aroused five weeks earlier when Mr Robert Edmondson was also dropped from all three of his roles.

He claims difficulty in speaking the verse in the manner Sir Peter wanted. The National says that Mr Edmondson, at the age of 79, was not up to the "playful" forthcoming tour to the USSR and Tokyo.

Off-stage drama, page 10

'Poor workmanship' threat to shipyard

By Peter Davenport

Allegations of poor workmanship were last night threatening a £96 million contract on which 3,000 British shipyard jobs depend. The claims were made by the chairman of a Danish shipping company which has ordered 24 small ferries from North East Shipbuilders, the British Shipbuilders yard at Sunderland.

Earlier this week, *The Times* disclosed lawyers acting for British Shipbuilders were trying to save the contract. Last night, the scale of the dispute became clear when Mr Jorgen Soetofte, chairman of VR Shipping in Copenhagen, listed a series of alleged faults in the two vessels delivered.

He said they were seriously underpowered, each of the 10 diesel generators had had to be replaced within eight months when they were

expected to last up to five years. The ships were dirty, noisy and extremely rusty, he claimed.

Mr Soetofte told *The Times*: "Our customers who see them ask if they are 20 or 25 years old."

"The decks are so full of dents in the steelwork they are like bad roads after rainy weather. They are also so noisy that we have been told we may have to issue passengers with earmuffs."

Mr Soetofte said negotiations between lawyers for the two sides would begin next week. A successful solution is critical for the yard and its 3,000 workers because the ferry order is the only work on its books.

Mr Soetofte said the yard was told of the problems last January but it continued to build as before. His company had refused to accept further vessels.

Last night, British Shipbuilders said: "We are aware these allegations have been made. We are confident that quality of the vessels is as specified."

Mr Ravi Tikoo's £263 million plan to build the world's biggest cruise ship in Belfast could run into trouble because of the Government's desire to end subsidies to its loss-making shipyards.

The decision whether to provide a £70 million subsidy for the luxury ship, to be built at the state-owned Harland and Wolff yard, will probably have to go before the Cabinet. Without aid, the project is expected to be aborted.

Contrary to reports that the ambitious scheme would be blocked by the European Commission, it yesterday became clear Brussels would

not intervene, providing aid stayed within the limit — 28 per cent of contract price — agreed by the EEC governments.

Mr Asger Petersen, of the EEC Competition Directorate, said the commission was only interested in seeing the aid ceiling is observed and did not determine the actual subsidy awarded by the respective governments. In the case of the giant cruise ship, "the decision rests with the British Government".

Although the cruise ship order would be highly welcome at Harland and Wolff, whose annual losses are running at about £60 million, the Northern Ireland Office is wary of the mistakes it has made in underwriting ambitious schemes, such as the DeLorean sports car project which was bankrupted.

Brittan says Tories must drop 20p tax target

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A surprise call to the Government to postpone its ambition to cut income tax to 20p in the pound and instead concentrate help on the lower paid was delivered last night by Mr Leon Brittan, the former Cabinet minister.

He said it should be done as a "positive response" to the Conservative concerns which had shown themselves in the heavy revolt on the poll tax last Monday. The Government should instead try to take three million people out of tax by the next election.

As ministers made another co-ordinated effort to back the community charge in a series of speeches, Mr Brittan said the party should meet the understandable concerns about the radical reforms of the rating and social security systems by showing that it recognized the need to concentrate assistance on those at the lower end of the scale.

"The most vivid way of doing this would be to announce now that the Government was putting its expressed aspiration to reduce the basic rate of tax to 20p in the pound on the backburner. Instead the Government should announce a specific target of taking three million people out of tax altogether by the next general election."

Mr Brittan's call comes as the case being argued by ministers that the House of Lords should not interfere with the flat-rate nature of the poll tax receives strong backing today from the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone.

In a letter to *The Times*, he says that suggestions that amendments to the community charge can be made in the Lords are contrary to his understanding of the constitution. The community charge is the "sole gift of the Com-

mons" under the constitution as it now exists, he says.

With the Government facing yet another rebellion on the third reading of the Bill on Monday, ministers again yesterday rallied to its defence.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said it was a central manifesto commitment "and it is one we are entitled and intend to implement."

He said it "tackles head on the inefficiencies, anomalies and unfairnesses of the existing antiquated rating system, which for too long both parties have failed to confront."

Mr Peter Brooke, the Conservative Party chairman, said that most of the poorest households, those with net incomes of less than £150 a week, would be better off under the community charge, as would eight out of 10 single pensioner households and nine out of 10 one parent families.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, was embroiled in a bizarre dispute with Labour MPs who accused him of making an "obscene gesture" at some of his own back-benchers.

Twenty nine Labour MPs signed a Commons motion deploring his behaviour. Ms Clare Short, MP for Birmingham Ladywood, said Mr Ridley appeared to be having an altercation with some Tory MPs behind him last Tuesday night and "turned round and gave them the V sign".

A Department of Environment spokesman said: "Mr Ridley is a gentleman of the old school and it is unlikely he would have done that. Probably it is a matter of interpretation."

Letters, page 11

Pay rise brings a smile

By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent



Mrs Valerie Thompson, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, who could gain a 60 per cent rise (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

Mrs Valerie Thompson, one of the nursing sisters who stands to gain up to 60 per cent from the new clinical grading structures, could not keep the smile off her face yesterday.

Mrs Thompson, aged 27, a ward sister at St Bartholomew's Hospital, central London, who could see her £9,000 salary rise to £14,400, said: "Now school leavers will at last have some incentive to go into nursing and to get further qualifications while they are there."

Health authorities are not expected to work out individual salaries until October. However, Mrs Thompson falls into the category which the Government most wants to reward. She also works in inner London, which entitles her to an extra £958 a year.

A graduate of Goldsmiths College, University of London, she has extra qualifications in intensive care and in assessment and is now on the nursing sister II grade.

She took the six-month intensive care course a year after qualifying but was given no extra pay. The English National Board assessment course, which she has just completed, enables her to assess and supervise students and intensive-care trainees, as well as doing some teaching.

"At the moment, on a salary of £9,000, I don't feel that I get any rewards for the extra courses I have done or the additional responsibility I have taken on. Quite frankly, I thought it was a bit unfair that I got the same as sisters who only had basic training."

Immigration office backlog Minister's passport pledge

By Sheila Gunn
and Boris Johnson

Mr Timothy Renton, the Home Office Minister of State, promised yesterday to have all unreturned passports and unacknowledged applications for citizenship dealt with by the end of next week.

An extra 160 staff, many working overtime, are clearing the backlog at the rate of 10,000 a week.

A further 15,000 applications are left and although not all the cases will be completed by next weekend, Mr Renton said all passports will be returned and all applications acknowledged.

He told the thousands left without passports and concerned about their nationality status and benefits that they had nothing to fear.

The piles of unopened mail lying in the Immigration and Nationality Department's offices in Lunenburg, Croydon, south London, have been condemned by the Conservative-dominated Commons.

The emergency team has

home affairs committee, Labour MPs and welfare groups.

The chaos was a result of the deadline last December for applications under new rules for British nationality.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, Mr Renton said that if anybody was really concerned about their status, they would not have applied in the last days of December but four or five years ago.

The Home Office said the paperwork had grown at the end of last year after 300,000 people instead of an expected 90,000 had sought to register as British citizens before the deadline of December 31.

Mr Keith Vaz, Labour MP for Leicester East who is on the home affairs select committee, questioned the Home Office figures.

"We know for a fact that there were 33,000 forms outstanding on Wednesday. I cannot believe that they have been able to process over 15,000 in two days," he said.

The emergency team has

been drawn from other departments of Lunenburg House and the Office of Fair Trading, was yesterday charged with insider dealing offences alleging she passed confidential information to her brother, a former share dealer.

Mr Sarah Joy Coren, aged 27, of Osulton Way, East Finchley, north London, appeared before Horseferry Road magistrates with her brother, who has been charged with two offences under the Companies Securities (Insider Dealing) Act, 1985.

Mr Jonathan Greenwood, aged 28, of Beachwood Avenue, Finchley, was remanded in custody for a week. Mrs Coren was granted unconditional bail.

She is charged on two counts that, being a Civil Servant, she passed price sensitive information about two take-over bids referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, knowing it would be used to deal on the Stock Exchange.

The charges relate to the bids by McCrory & Co. for Richard Clay plc in August 1985, and the BET plc bid for SGB in September 1985.

Mr Greenwood faces two charges alleging he obtained the information. He also faces charges of obtaining a British passport by deception and attempting to obtain a passport.

Mrs Coren faces a summons alleging she communicated unpublished price sensitive information.

By the *Times* overseas: Australia \$2.20; Belgium £1.00; Canada \$2.00; Denmark \$2.00; France £1.00; Germany \$2.00; Greece £1.00; Hong Kong \$2.00; India \$2.00; Italy £1.00; Japan \$2.00; Korea \$2.00; Luxembourg £1.00; Netherlands \$2.00; New Zealand \$2.00; Norway £1.00; Portugal \$2.00; Spain \$2.00; Sweden £1.00; Switzerland \$2.00; Taiwan \$2.00; Thailand \$2.00; USA \$2.00; West Germany \$2.00.

Dublin 'clears' accused Briton

Grenadier Guardsman David Holden, aged 18, who is accused of manslaughter at a British Army Ulster border checkpoint, did not fire directly at his alleged victim, according to an Irish government inquiry.

The man who died in the incident, Aidan McAneaspie, aged 24 and a Gaelic football fan, was hit in the back by a ricocheting bullet, Mr Gerry Collins, the Irish justice minister, has been told.

Details of the findings of the Irish police inquiry ordered by the Irish prime minister, Mr Charles Haughey, are still officially a secret. But according to high-ranking Irish security sources two inquiries — the police checks and a post-mortem examination — have found that Mr McAneaspie was hit by a ricochet.

That agrees with Ulster police findings and effectively dismisses claims by his family and IRA supporters that Mr McAneaspie was deliberately made a target in a British Army "shoot-to-kill" policy because of relatives' links with Sinn Fein.

He died in the shooting at the border village, Aughacloy, last February. The British Army said a heavy machine-gun was accidentally discharged while being handed from one soldier to another.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was angered when Mr Haughey ordered the inquiry. She said the Irish government had no right to investigate matters north of the border.

In the face of protests from London and Belfast, Mr Haughey vigorously defended the inquiry, saying the shooting was "a matter of utmost gravity".

Mr Collins confirmed yesterday that he has received the inquiry report. But he would not comment on it until it had been considered by the Dublin Cabinet.

● The RUC, alarmed at the increasing frequency of IRA attacks on armoured vehicles with the terrorists' newly developed armour-piercing impact grenade, said yesterday it had legal backing to shoot grenade throwers dead. The improvised armour-piercing device has so far cost the life of one RUC driver and injured 34 people.

Insider dealing charges

A Civil Servant with the Office of Fair Trading, was yesterday charged with insider dealing offences alleging she passed confidential information to her brother, a former share dealer.

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Uproar over P&O non-union plan

By Tim Jones

Police were called yesterday to control angry demonstrators as P&O European Ferries confirmed it was planning to ignore the three-month strike which has halted its cross Channel operations from Dover and begin a limited service next week with non-union labour.

A mass meeting yesterday rejected the company's final pay and conditions offer and voted to continue the strike.

After meeting union officials, Mr Graeme Dunlop, managing director, said: "Nothing has changed. The mass meeting was addressed by

people who must try and justify why they have led an unnecessary 12-week strike and why they have adopted an irresponsible and destructive attitude to the clear wish of the majority."

"We are rostering ships. We are going back to sea."

Mr Dunlop said that a "hotline" telephone number would remain open for strikers who wanted to accept the new terms of employment.

P&O, which had been planning to sell its Dover fleet if the impasse continued, is now trying to recruit non-union

workers to take advantage of the lucrative summer trade.

The company says that nearly 1,000 employees, almost 60 per cent of the strikers, have accepted the final offer, designed to end restrictive practices and put ratings, depending on grade and length of service, on salaries of between £11,500 and £17,400 a year.

Union leaders dispute the numbers who have signed new contracts. They gave a warning that any strike-breaking ferries would be "blackballed" by port workers.

On Sunday evening, a month before first night, the cast were phoned at their homes to be told that she had left. Officially the NT says she had herself grown "increasingly unhappy" in the part but it is clear that the decision that she must go was Sir

rehearsing three long plays simultaneously and staging them on one set in the National's smallest theatre.

The actor Ian McKellen, a former associate director of the National who starred in Sir Peter's 1985 production of *Coriolanus*, said yesterday: "I think that any problems there at present have to be seen in the context of how terribly difficult it is to stage these three plays in such a short period of time."

In November, while the productions were still at the workshop stage, theatre professionals were amazed by his choice of Miss Miles to replace Miss Wendy Morgan, his original

member of the delivery of tomorrow's *South Bank Show* on London Weekend Television.

Doubts about Sir Peter's casting had been aroused five weeks earlier when Mr Robert Edmondson was also dropped from all three of his roles.

Dublin 'clears' accused Briton

Boroughs suggest a £5-a-day fee to ease London traffic jams

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The possibility of charging drivers up to £5 a day for the use of London's roads is one of the options for easing traffic problems to be put forward next month by a body representing 33 boroughs.

A £5-a-day charge on vehicles coming into central London could raise up to £4 million daily. The idea will be included in a consultative document to be published by the London Planning Advisory Committee, which will deal with other issues including employment, the environment and housing.

The advisory committee said yesterday it was not advocating charging for the use of congested roads in central London. It was merely one option for dealing with the capital's traffic problems. Other options included more investment in public transport, a road building and road improvement programme and traffic management schemes on radial and orbital roads.

At the same time, a call for imaginative and courageous decisions on road-building, as part of a coordinated attack on the capital's traffic problems, was made by Lord Ezra, the Social and Liberal Democrats spokesman on economic and industrial affairs.

He called for the provision of more parking spaces, tougher enforcement of parking rules, more traffic management schemes to keep traffic moving at difficult junctions, more investment in surface and underground railways and more bus lanes.

He said traffic congestion was estimated to be costing up to £3 billion, or 1 per cent of gross national product, a year. Government steps to help to combat the problem were not properly coordinated.

Amplifying a speech he made in the House of Lords

after a series of articles in *The Times* last week, Lord Ezra said a minister should be appointed at the Department of Transport to coordinate authorities such as the London boroughs, London Regional Transport and British Rail, which were responsible for decisions affecting traffic.

He said a scheme put forward by Costain, the contractors, for road and rail routes on the Thames river bed, deserved careful examination.

In the longer term, the Department of Transport should be looking at the possible need for levying a charge on motorists using the most congested areas of London. However, he said he recognized that at present such a move would be politically unpopular.

Mr Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said last December that permits for drivers entering central London in peak hours might be one solution to the city's traffic congestion.

The advisory committee said that consultations on its traffic document would take place during the summer. It was hoped to produce a final version by September, which would be submitted to Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

If the process of consultation revealed that road pricing deserved serious consideration, more research would be carried out into levels of payment and how the charges would be levied.

In considering the possibility of road pricing, a charge of £5 a day had been one of the figures used in making calculations. However, it did not mean it was a fee which the advisory committee would advocate.

The inclusion of road pricing among its options

emerged at a briefing given on Wednesday night to the London region of the National Chamber of Trade by Mr John Popper, the group's chief planning officer.

The British Road Federation, which campaigns for an improved road network throughout Britain, said road pricing would be a form of double taxation on motorists, hitting businesses and possibly forcing some to re-locate.

The Automobile Association said a charge of £5 a day would penalize private motorists least able to afford it, while the charge on company cars would simply be passed on to consumers.

Motor taxes were already raising about four times as much as was being spent on roads, with £14 billion being generated by taxation and only £3.3 billion being spent on road construction and maintenance in 1986-87.

There are no tolls on public highways in Britain. Charges are levied for crossing some bridges, such as those over the Humber and the Forth. The planned bridge across the Thames at Dartford, east London, which is being financed by private capital, will bear tolls, as does the existing tunnel at Dartford.

In Singapore, cars are allowed into the city centre at peak times only if they are carrying at least two passengers.

In Paris, where traffic has quadrupled in the past 10 years, a three-point plan has been proposed to create a special traffic police force, a network of high-speed road tunnels and a computerized traffic light synchronization scheme. In Athens, half the city's 800,000 private cars and taxis are barred from the inner ring on alternate weekdays between 6am and 8pm.

Golden gosling hatches at Slimbridge



The fiftieth Hawaiian goose hatched at the Wildfowl Trust this year carefully cleans its down after breaking through the shell (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

By Andrew Morgan

The Wildfowl Trust yesterday celebrated the fiftieth hatching this season of the endangered Hawaiian goose, or Nene.

The species declined from an estimated population of 25,000 in Hawaii in the eighteenth century to fewer than 50 birds in the 1940s, due to the attention of humans and animal predators.

It was selected for breeding programmes at the Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, and at Pohukuloa on Hawaii and there are now more than 2,000 in the world.

Sir Peter Scott, the trust's honorary director, introduced the first pair of Nene at Slimbridge in May, 1950, with the hope of eventually returning some to the wild.

However they both turned out to be females and a male had to be found hurriedly.

In February 1952, a Nene called Emma laid the first clutch of eggs and a second, Kaimani, went on to produce 99 eggs and 11 goslings before her death in 1960. The average clutch is four to five eggs.

In 1962, about 30 geese were flown to Honolulu and released on Maui, where they have become extinct. Over a four-year period 50 birds were returned to the wild.

Rearing at Slimbridge combats the loss of eggs through disturbance from other birds, the cold climate and the public. Incubation is 28 to 29 days and it can take 24 hours to hatch at a temperature of 38°C. Goslings are kept in the propagation centre from 15 days to 10 weeks.

Nene geese, two to 10 weeks old, in the propagation centre.

There are about 50 adult breeding pairs at Slimbridge and 60 eggs are expected to be reared this year.

The Nene is the largest of the native Hawaiian land birds and the egg weighs on average 150 grams. Goslings average 100 grams.

The breeding season in England starts five months later than at Pohukuloa and is

shorter. Eggs are Slimbridge are much lighter, possibly due to the climate.

Mr Michael Omsted, head of development at Slimbridge, said the trust was co-operating with the Hawaiian authorities in a new project finally to establish the Nene in the wild.

"It has been another very successful breeding season for the Nene."

Portfolio — PLUS NEW — Accumulator Winner plans a party

Mrs Leslie Bartlett, a local government receptionist from East Molesey, Surrey, has won the £4,000 first prize in the Portfolio Gold competition.

She said: "It is such a surprise. I assumed that at least 400 others would be ringing in to claim."

Mrs Bartlett, who has

been following the competition "on and off" since its inception, never before came even close to achieving a winning tally.

As soon as she recovers from having learnt of her good fortune, she plans to throw a party for her three sons, daughter-in-law, and the rest of her family.

'High-pressure sales' worry trading officials

By Tim Jones

Trading standards officials last night called on the Government to plug loopholes in laws which allow thousands of mainly elderly people to be persuaded by salesmen to take on commitments they cannot afford.

Their call came as one of Britain's leading social psychologists said that many people could be in danger of becoming financially over-stretched and emotionally disturbed because of the attentions of specially trained high-pressure salesmen.

Professor Robert Farr of the London School of Economics was commenting on the case of the "prize mad" salesman who effectively imprisoned a Bristol couple in their home for four hours as he pleaded

with them to buy an £800 vacuum cleaner.

The salesman, from the Kirby Home Care System, of Radstock, Avon, needed the sale to secure the award of top sales representative, which would have given him a luxury holiday in Cyprus.

A consumer protection officer with Birmingham City Council said that some of the most blatant cases involved the sale of time-share properties.

He said that people who signed time-share contracts in their homes had a legal cooling-off period during which they could withdraw from the agreement but the protection was not there if they signed contracts in the offices of companies selling the deals.

Police want EEC drug force

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A European task force of drug investigators may be needed in the 1990s to combat trafficking after the formation of the EEC single market, a police conference was told yesterday.

Mr Hugh Annesley, chairman of the conference in Preston, Lancashire, and head of Scotland Yard's specialist detectives, said that both the EEC single market and the Channel tunnel raised anxieties about drugs.

"There is a significant amount of cocaine about and anything that means it can get into Europe more easily is of concern. Safeguards would be needed for law enforcement groups to prevent a deluge on the United Kingdom."

Interpol would study the idea and police, Customs and Whitehall officials were already discussing the EEC changes, but if the task force

was not formed or other measures taken, then Europe, which is already threatened with a deluge of surplus cocaine, could have even more serious problems.

Mr Arthur Rigby, deputy chief Customs investigator, said he feared it would be easier to bring drugs into the United Kingdom. Customs officials in Brussels were trying to get agreement to retain the right to stop suspects.

Conviction for murder set aside

Anne Reynolds, aged 19, who was jailed for life for killing her mother, was freed yesterday after it was accepted that she was temporarily unbalanced after the secret birth of her baby.

She was placed on probation after her murder conviction was set aside and a plea of manslaughter with diminished responsibility was substituted.

The Court of Appeal was unanimous in freeing her after 14 months in custody. It has been accepted by psychiatrists that she was suffering from post-natal depression combined with premenstrual tension at the time of the killing.

Miss Reynolds killed her mother, Elizabeth, aged 61, by hammering her to death with a hammer at their home in Roman Way, Brackley, Northamptonshire, two months after giving birth to her soldier boyfriend's baby. The baby, a boy, has been adopted.

She was convicted at Northampton Crown Court in February last year. About 6,000 people from her home town signed a petition calling for her release.

Lord Justice Stocker, sitting with Mr Justice French and Mr Justice McKinnon said the murder conviction was unsafe and unsatisfactory.

They accepted new medical evidence before them that she was suffering from temporary diminished responsibility at the time of the killing.

Safety in the air

Advance alert on jet faults

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British Airways is to equip most jets with automatic monitoring equipment capable of finding defects and relaying advance warnings to engineers on the ground.

The equipment, known as Aircraft Communication Addressing and Reporting System, will cost £6 million to install and is designed to speed up maintenance and pinpoint potential trouble while the aircraft is in flight.

At the moment a pilot can report an aircraft fault only by describing symptoms by radio to the ground. Advances in engine monitoring mean, for example, that a vibration or over-heating in an engine can be analysed and details beamed automatically to Earth where engineers can study them and give a precise cause.

Spare parts can be ordered

in advance of the aircraft's arrival with a team on standby.

About six ground stations capable of collecting the information are being set up around the world and, for the moment, any aircraft within 250 miles of a dish will be able to transmit technical information. Eventually it is hoped to cover the whole world by using satellites.

The equipment will also give weather details and act as a flying tachograph, recording precisely the aircraft's position and landing and take off times. BA believes it will have paid for itself within a year.

Fewer than 50 former B-Cal aircraft engineers have turned down job offers with British Airways, in spite of facing pay cuts up to £5,000 a year.

It had been feared the engineers, paid up to 30 per

cent more than their opposite numbers on British Airways, would refuse to sign contracts and wreck the takeover of the Gatwick-based airline by BA. Only 21 permanent staff and 28 part-time workers have accepted the terms; 1,300 have accepted.

The men are being used to overcome a shortage of engineers throughout the industry. BA is hoping to take on both young apprentices and qualified engineers and within three years hopes to have at least 750 under training.

Mr Alistair Cumming, British Airways' director of engineering, said yesterday: "I feel sorry for the B-Cal engineers who have had to take a big drop in pay but the reality is that they worked for a company which was rapidly going bankrupt."

£70m rail link set to open

By Our Transport Correspondent

The Princess Royal will open a railway route on Monday linking areas north of London with the south coast.

The route, to be known as Thameslink, will pass through the re-opened Snow Hill tunnel, between Farringdon and Blackfriars, to enable through services to run from Bedfordshire to Kent and Sussex. Sixty new four-coach trains have been ordered for the line and a full service will begin on May 16.

Until then tests will be

operated. Passengers will be carried on some runs, but these will be subject to cancellation. The project cost, including tunnelling and rolling stock, is more than £70 million.

The electric trains are capable of 100mph, and have been designed to take current from the overhead lines north of the Thames, or from the "third-rail" system in Network SouthEast.

Passengers travelling from

areas such as Sheffield and the East Midlands to Gatwick, East Croydon or Brighton, will not need to make a road or Underground journey between London termini. They can change at Luton.

Intermediate stops at stations such as Bromley South, East Croydon and London Bridge will give access to many lines throughout the South-east. From Farringdon and Blackfriars in the City there will be a half hourly service to Gatwick Airport.

Electronic doom box for unwary mice

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Ralph Waldo Emerson observed that a chap who could design a better mouse-trap than his neighbour would find the world beating a path to his door.

The mouse of the future is likely to find his path beset not by traps or poisoned baits but by an electronic detector, the rodest equivalent of a burglar alarm.

The Mouse Alert system consists of sensor boxes designed to encourage mice to enter them. A light on a control panel indicates the presence of the intruder.

The operator can then summon the hit squad, in the person of a Rentokil serviceman, who will, in the company's words, "interrogate the control panel

with a special key to locate the area of mouse activity", and take appropriate steps to liquidate the victim.

If that sounds a bit over the top compared with the lump of mouldering cheddar on the lethal springboard, it is all part of a move towards pest control without pesticides.

Rentokil said the system, using infra-red beams to trigger the sensor in each box, was quicker and more reliable than traditional baiting. Only one bait in a million killed its intended victim. That was the equivalent of a machine gunner firing 10 rounds a second for more than 24 hours before hitting his target.

"The prophylactic approach can no longer be justified", the company said.

Other developments disclosed yesterday include the use of sex attractants to lure unsuspecting moths, flies and cockroaches to their doom, and hormones to inhibit the development of ants and beetles that damage food. The ultimate weapon is a portable gas chamber using such environmentally harmless fumigants as carbon dioxide or nitrogen, which leave no residues.

It has been successfully used to treat woodworm in the seats and body panels of cars at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu.

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Ridley orders experienced team into action in Lords

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

A team of experienced government peers is to be drafted in to help to smooth the passage of the poll tax legislation through the House of Lords at the insistence of Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Lord Caithness, Minister of State for the Environment, with responsibility for hereditary issues, will be in charge of the Local Government Finance Bill which goes to the upper House next week. Lord Glenarthur, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, has also been assigned to deal with parts of the Bill.

The help of Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who has quickly adapted to his role as Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords, may also be called on depending on his other commitments. He has been put in charge of contentious clauses affecting universities in the Education Reform Bill.

In addition, several senior backbenchers are likely to be briefed to fight off any attempt to emasculate Mr Ridley's proposals for a flat-rate community charge.

The Government's business

managers are giving priority to the poll tax proposals in its legislative timetable in the hope of pushing them through the House of Lords as early as possible. They are optimistic that the "instincts" and conventions in the upper House will deter any Conservative peers who are unhappy with the flat-rate community charge from clashing openly with Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

That is in spite of technical advice from the Lords' authorities that there is no bar to them passing an amendment similar to that proposed



Lord Caithness, in charge of smoothing Bill's passage.

by Mr Michael Mates, MP for Hampshire East.

Government whips insist that the Conservative Party does not have an overall majority in the upper House. However, so far in this session it has been polling higher figures than in recent years and has not suffered any important defeats.

The first formal reading of the Local Government Finance Bill will be given next week. The detailed committee stage will start at the end of next month before peers rise for the Whitsun recess. That means that by early June the upper House will be in the middle of both the education and poll tax measures.

However, the main concern of the Government's business managers will be to get through the tricky passages of the Local Government Finance Bill before Conservative peers are tempted away from their division lobbies by the diversions of Royal Ascot, Henley and Wimbledon.

By convention, peers do not vote on a government Bill at second reading but save their fire for the detailed examina-

tion stages. During the revising process, they are not under the same limitations on time and amendments as MPs.

Lord Cledwyn, leader of the Labour peers, said yesterday: "We do not vote against a government Bill at second reading on the basis of the doctrine of the mandate. That is the convention we observe, as we did on the Education Reform Bill."

"But we are perfectly entitled to process this (Local Government Finance) Bill in the normal way, tabling amendments and, if necessary, voting against the Government."

He recognized that peers might be treading on difficult constitutional ground if they passed a "Mates" amendment but he believed they would be within their rights to approve such a change under their powers in the Parliament Act 1911.

Opposition peers are worried that Tory backbenchers might be "bullied" by Government whips into not tabling radical amendments by claiming that they were acting unconstitutionally.

In search of the future



Fresh air and futuristic concepts in the shape of the roofless Hunter car on show at Turin.

Like George Melly's suits, the Hunter concept car was designed to attract attention (Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent, writes). The black, futuristic buggy with seats in wet-suit yellow fulfilled its designer's ambition at the Turin motor show this week alongside the work of Gagliardi, Pininfarina and Bertone, the haute couture of automotive design.

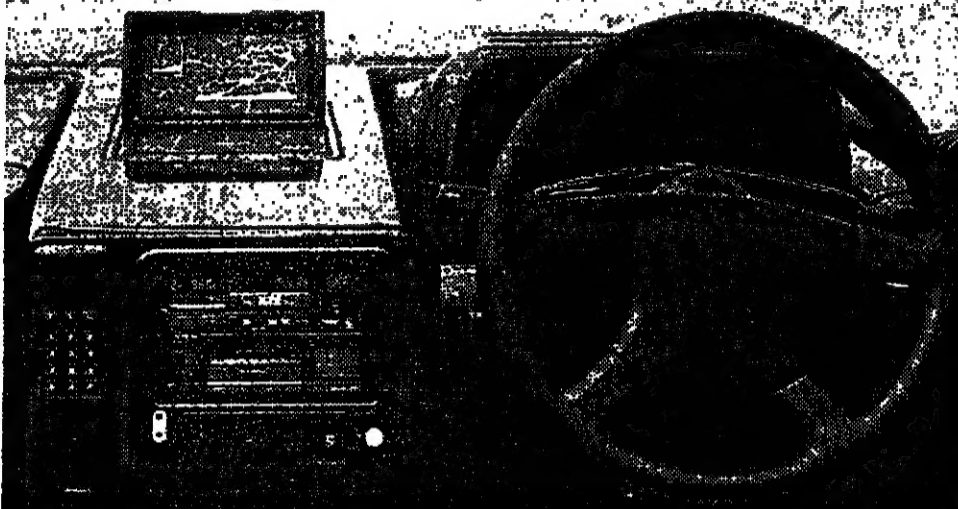
Mr Martin Longmore, the Hunter's creator, works for International Automotive Design of Worthing, West Sussex. He said: "Cars are looking so alike these days that it is very important to push design ahead."

There is no roof. Miss Cindy Charwick, the interior designer, said: "You have to dress for the weather." She included a satellite navigation system so drivers leaving metalled roads will know what the terrain is like ahead.

The Hunter and the company's luxury

Royale saloon, also making its debut at Turin, each took a team of 15 designers and engineers six months to create at a combined cost of £500,000. They are not for sale. The Royale was designed by Señor Jose Luis Diaz de la Vega, the Mexican stylist, as "an exciting luxury saloon that can be used as an office."

Mr Bill Barranco, Royale's interior designer, dismisses a tape cassette player as antique. The rear seat passengers have a facsimile machine, lap-top computer and individual television screens. The Royale boasts 13 speakers for the sophisticated sound system. "The thirteenth is an activator which transforms one of the structural parts of the car into a base speaker. It should sound like a concert hall inside the car," Mr Barranco says, with the air of someone who takes the future very seriously indeed.



The dashboard, showing the off-road navigational system to the left of the steering wheel.

Tube costs and safety 'outside inquiry'

By Tony Dawe

The contentious issue of whether safety has been sacrificed to cost-cutting on the London Underground was ruled out on the fifty-first day of the public inquiry into the King's Cross disaster.

Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, the chairman of the inquiry, said that the issue, which has been raised repeatedly since last November's fire which killed 31 people, was beyond his terms of reference.

He said the inquiry should explore London Underground's attitude and its reasons for taking decisions on safety measures affecting the fire.

Lawyers thought it reasonable for the inquiry to consider whether the tight financial regime imposed on London Underground by the Government had led to cuts in safety protection. But counsel for the company had opposed the claim.

In his judgement, Mr Fennell said that the terms of reference of the inquiry, set up by the Secretary of State for Transport, had invited him to look into the circumstances of the fire and not to conduct a general inquiry into the running of the London Underground.

"That would be a wholly different proposition. In my judgement the funding of the Underground is *ultra vires* this investigation, which is concerned with what happened on the night of November 18 and why. Accordingly I do not propose to consider the point or to allow evidence upon it."

Mr Fennell said the inquiry should consider the company's decisions on the water fog equipment, smoke detectors, and the use of wooden components on the escalator. Matters of passenger evacuation, training, staffing, passenger and station control were also relevant to the inquiry.

He also ruled that evidence about other fires on the Underground could be allowed when there were common factors.

But he would not consider the question of creating a new external agency to oversee the running of the Underground. "An enforcing agency is already in existence", he said, referring to the roles of the Railway Inspectorate and the fire brigade.

Relatives may try to halt axe death inquest

A High Court attempt may be made on Monday to halt the inquest into the killing of Daniel Morgan, the private detective found with an axe through his head.

Relatives of Mr Morgan, aged 37, do not want the inquest to end without the evidence of Mrs Sharon Rees, aged 31, the wife of Mr John Rees, Mr Morgan's partner at a detective agency. He was arrested and released by murder squad detectives.

Mrs Rees is said to be one of only two people told about an alleged plot to kill Mr Morgan. She vanished from her home in Thornton Heath, south London, after being told her evidence was required.

Sir Montague Levine, the coroner, may rule that she would be too ill to give evidence even if traced.

Second sale of Italian paintings

More from a hidden hoard

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Christie's is to sell a second group of nineteenth century Italian paintings from a huge hoard, hidden from the moment they were painted until last year. The collection, to be sold next Friday, can be compared to the Nanking Cargo of china, and is an important discovery for art historians.

The hoards were two South American-born brothers, Juan and Felix Bernasconi who, during the late nineteenth century bought the paintings from the artists, and stacked them unframed at their home, the Villa Argentina outside Lugano. Invited by a descendant to value the collection last year, Christie's discovered the paintings in the attic and stacked away in drawers.

The auction house sold 2,500 of them and was amazed

at the £3.5 million raised, four times their estimate. It retained 205 of the better works and it is those which are now on offer. They include 26 previously unseen works by Mose Bianchi, the family's favourite artist. Estimates which were between £10,000 and £20,000 last year are now £40,000 to £80,000.

A seventeenth century Dutch winter landscape by Aert van der Neer fetched top price of £264,000, at Christie's Old Master sale in London yesterday, bought anonymously.

The dealer, Thomas Brod-

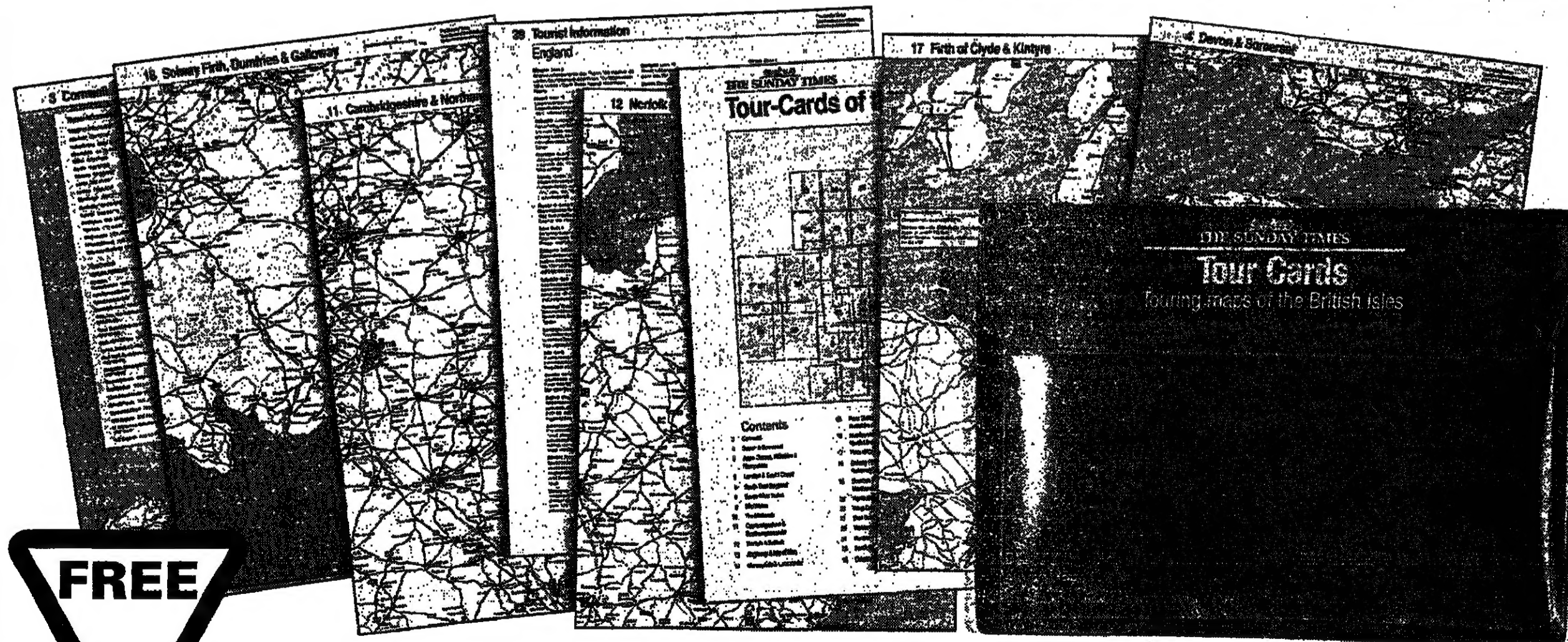
bought two high priced works: a still life of flowers, its leaves enhanced with drips of water and a caterpillar, by Balthus van der Ast at £242,000 (estimate £150,000 to £200,000) and a pair of tiny seascapes by Salomon van Ruysdael for which he paid £110,000 (estimate £30,000 to £40,000).

Two pictures described by Christie's expert, Gregory Martin, as "grizzly", fetched £70,000 over their estimate to an anonymous buyer.

A Venetian painting of the Adoration of the Shepherds, presented to St Mary's Church, Elham, in memory of Charles Lindsay Murray Scott (killed in the First World War) raised £12,100, within estimate.

The sale totalled £2.6 million, with 78 per cent sold.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Drug breakthrough may herald design of slimmers' sugar

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A discovery that might lead to the development of a non-fattening sugar has been made by scientists involved in "blue-sky" advanced research at Oxford University.

The discovery comes from a breakthrough in chemistry research that allows scientists to design drugs which avoid harmful side-effects.

That world-beating development by a team working with Dr Stephen Davies has been adopted for the production of a new generation of pharmaceuticals, and fine chemicals by companies in Britain, the United States, and Japan.

Yet Dr Davies was almost forced to abandon research three years ago after repeated refusals of support from the government-backed Science and Engineering Research Council.

He was saved by a new organization formed by BP, Venture Research Unit, which gave him more than £250,000 and other support.

The unit, unique in Britain, looks for scientists with brilliant ideas that are rejected as being "too blue sky" or advanced by the committees of orthodox scientists who allow

cate grants for basic academic research.

Commercial exploitation of the initial findings of the Oxford work was carried out by BP Chemicals, and Venture Research Unit has just awarded Dr Davies' team another large research grant.

He said: "The results should be even more far-reaching."

The first discovery has opened a new and much better route for chemists to synthesize the types of compounds needed to make drugs, pesticides and a wide range of other substances.

The new technique produces purer substances and cuts down on the quantity of raw materials.

There can be hidden dangers in up to half the molecules in a man-made drug.

They arise because although all the molecules of a compound may be chemically identical, in practice the mixture consists of two versions: one being a mirror image of the other.

Unfortunately, the body can absorb them in different ways with profound effect, as happened with thalidomide.

The fact that synthetic preparations consist of an equal mixture of the two types, also known as left and right-handed forms, has been known for decades by scientists. Complicated and costly methods are needed to separate them into pure products.

What Dr Davies has discovered is a family of reagents called chiral iron acrylates, which control the type of organic chemistry involved in making drugs so that only one form of the molecule can be made. That gives the chemist absolute "optical purity".

In addition to guaranteeing safety, a technology based on chiral reagents avoids elaborate and costly stages needed to achieve optical purity.

But research elsewhere has shown that natural sugar compounds comprise a mixture of chiral, or mirror pair, molecules, and that one version is not absorbed by the body.

Dr Davies said in theory it was possible to produce just the molecules of sugar which would not be absorbed by the body. Whether that could be turned into the ultimate sweetener for slimmers was a more complicated question.

Indian art collection freed from crypt

By Andrew Billen

The Victoria & Albert Museum in London yesterday opened the doors on the crypt where thousands of Indian prints, sculptures and textiles have been hidden from general view for decades.

Although the objects can be seen privately on demand and examined by scholars, most of the 44,000 pieces in the collection have not been seen since they were transferred to the V & A from the India Museum in Kensington, west London, in the 1950s.

Mr Robert Skelton, the keeper, who has been with the collection since shortly after the Second World War, said yesterday: "When they closed the museum, the government promised space would be found to display them in the V & A within 10 years. We all know what happens to that sort of promise."

The Indian Arts Council in Britain, a non-government charity, says the V & A has a moral obligation to display the collection in full and supports moves to distribute it to provincial museums, particularly those in areas where there are Indian and Asian immigrant populations.

Mr Balraj Khanna, the council's chairman, said: "It is a great shame these things should be rotting in the crypt. They should be exhibited and seen and if that is not possible they should be returned to India from where they were looted in the first place. Mr Skelton is a devoted keeper who loves India and his collection. He should have



Mr Robert Skelton with one of the ivory carvings yesterday at the Victoria & Albert Museum (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

been given the financial capacity to display it."

Last month the V & A opened a gallery of Indian sculpture dating from the first

century BC to the 1500s. Next year it hopes to complete a £1.2 million display area in which the influence of India in the design traditions of the

modern world will be illustrated. The most ambitious project is the rebuilding of the museum's North Court, which will

be used to show thousands of artefacts from Asia. A campaign to raise £10 million is being launched to finance the project.

PARLIAMENT

Thatcher accused of 'shameless lack of candour'

An attack on the Prime Minister and "the accelerating arrogance" of 10 Downing Street was made in the Commons by Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Loch). He accused Mrs Thatcher of being involved in "organized mendacity", a phrase he later changed to "shameless lack of candour".

He alleged in an adjournment debate that decisions had been taken by Mrs Thatcher without the knowledge of departmental ministers concerned.

Mr Dalyell said that there were Conservative MPs who were as worried as he was about the decline of Cabinet government, the increase in prime ministerial power, the systematic attempt by Mrs Thatcher to downgrade and ridicule the Opposition and, for the protection of the office of Prime Minister, the resort to "organized mendacity".

Partly because of having got away over Westlands, the Prime Minister and her close entourage imagined that they could cut corners of public propriety and get away with it in a House of Commons that some of them despised.

Leaking against senior Cabinet colleagues had been developed into a technique of Government.

He believed that the Gibraltar shootings were carried out by the SAS on the express authority of the Prime Minister, via Mr Charles Powell, her private secretary, without the Foreign Secretary and the Foreign Office knowing much about it at the planning stage.

He believed, too, that much of what went on under cover in Northern Ireland, such as the bugging of the hay-yard where Michael Tighe was killed, had been outside the political authority of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. That authority had come from Downing Street.

The Ponting trial had opened the eyes of many people. "Eleven days at the Old Bailey revealed the organized mendacity of the Prime Minister."

No behaviour could be more grave than the sustained, shameless lack of candour by

the head of government.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State, Privy Council Office, said that Mr Dalyell showed a remarkable consistency in his obsession with certain issues. Certainly he had a remarkable lack of proportion.

He suggested that there had been a campaign of organized mendacity or a shameless lack of candour on the part of the Prime Minister. That was totally unworthy of him.

The Prime Minister was widely accepted as a leader of great integrity. Her achievements were remarkable and historians would judge her as one of the country's greatest Prime Ministers.

Those who served ministers were hard working and of the



Mr Dalyell: Increase in prime ministerial power

highest loyalty. The demands upon those in the private office of No 10 must be that much greater.

Any unauthorized disclosures of official information were to be deplored and were carefully investigated. The Government took any breach of confidentiality extremely seriously.

The implications of Mr Dalyell's remarks was that the Government was not open and did not give adequate information, but this Government had persistently pursued a policy of encouraging departments to make available as much information as possible, consistent with the requirements of good government.

Bill will tighten law against dog fighting

A private Member's Bill aimed at stopping organized dog and other animal fights, completed its passage through the Commons.

Its sponsor, Mr John Browne (Winchester, C), moving the third reading of the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Bill, said that it simplified and extended the powers of the courts; increased penalties for attendance at animal fights and empowered the RSPCA, other bodies and individuals to bring prosecutions.

Offences were on the increase. In 1980 there had been 809 prosecutions for animal cruelty, but by 1986 this had risen to 1,026.

Mr Robin Corbett, an Opposition spokesman on Home Office affairs, said that the police, even within manpower restraints, would want to respond to the growing public concern about these vile events.

Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said that the Bill was an important piece of animal welfare legislation.

Mr Gregory Knight (Derby North, C) moved an amendment during the report stage to give the courts powers to confiscate animals used in fights. He said that big money was involved in dog fights and he had doubts whether existing powers were effective, either as a

punishment or a deterrent. Mr Thomas Cox (Tooting, Lab) said that in a recent case involving badge-baiting, magistrates had confiscated the dog, but this had been overturned on appeal. The judge said that if Parliament had intended dogs to be confiscated that would have been in the legislation.

Mr Browne said he had heard that a top, mature dog would sell for around £10,000, so loss of an animal would be a serious deterrent.

Mr Hogg said that he was in favour of forfeiture but this was already provided for under the 1911 Act.

The amendment was withdrawn.

● The Malicious Communications Bill, which proposes fines for people who sent or delivered, post-paid letters or other articles intended to cause distress or anxiety, was read the third time.

Mr John Patten, Minister of State, Home Office, said that it was time the law protected the innocent victims of hatred and malice.

The Environment and Safety Information Bill, which requires all monitoring agencies responsible for public or environmental safety to keep a register of the notices they issue, was read a second time.



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Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6L	5	£8296	11.6	101.2
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Source: Motor Magazine.

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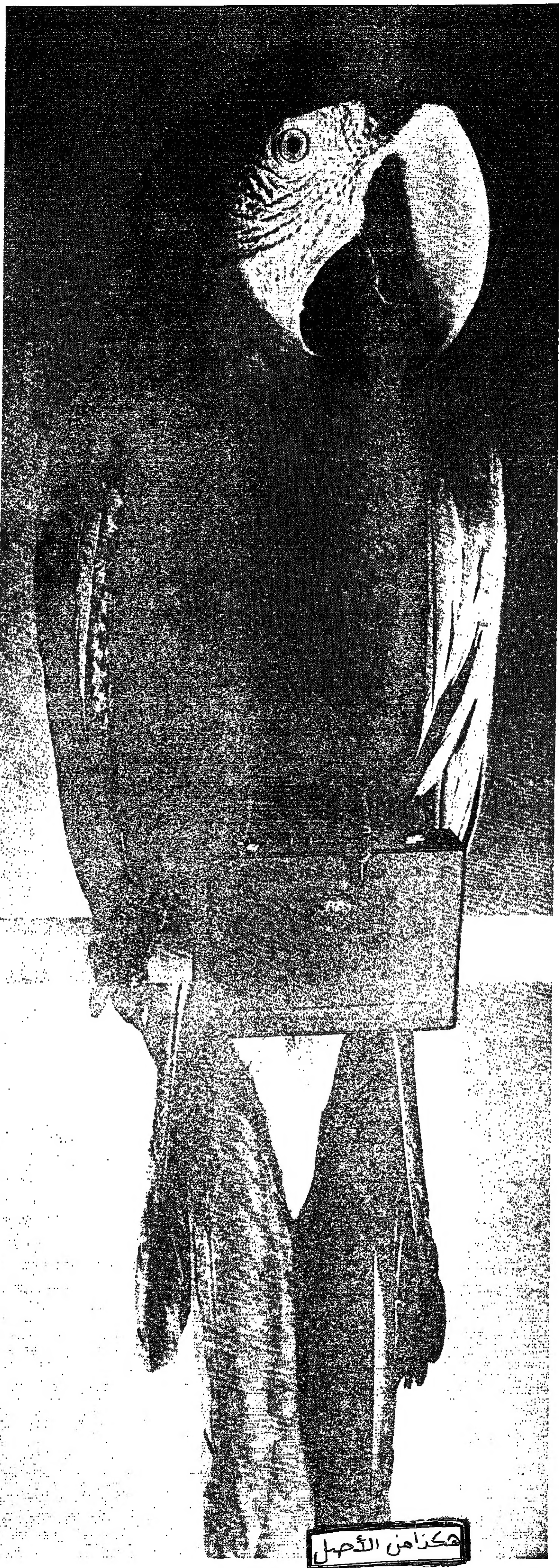
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Danes condemn US and Britain over cancelled Navy visit

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

Britain and the United States have been accused of meddling in Danish affairs in the run-up to a snap general election called for May 10.

The accusation follows a British decision yesterday to cancel scheduled visits to four Danish ports by six warships, some of which have just completed NATO minesweeping manoeuvres in the North Sea. It is the latest move in a NATO crisis sparked by the decision of Denmark's Prime Minister, Mr Poul Schlüter, to call a snap election over his country's nuclear policy.

As an unusually bitter election campaign got under way, with the country's membership of the NATO alliance the main theme, Mr Svend Auken, the Opposition Social Democratic leader, said Britain and the United States were meddling in Danish domestic affairs. "The British and American Governments are Conservative Governments and I guess it is only human that they support the Conservative Government in Denmark," Mr Auken said.

"I do not want a confrontation with people with whom I will have to work after the election - we expect to win in this poll. In the eyes of many Danes it is certainly interference," he said. The cancella-

tion of the British naval visits follows NATO's decision earlier in the week to move a meeting of defence ministers in the Nuclear Planning Group, scheduled for April 27 and 28, from Kolding, Jutland, in West Denmark, to NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Lord Carrington, the outgoing NATO Secretary-General, who was to have chaired the Kolding meeting, has postponed a farewell visit to Copenhagen (including luncheon with Queen Margrethe), also scheduled for next week. According to NATO diplomats, the alliance felt that opponents of Mr Poul Schlüter, Denmark's Conservative Prime Minister and leader of the centre-right four-party minority Government, could have used the Kolding meeting to score political points, and therefore preferred to transfer the meeting to Brussels and await the election outcome.

The Government has taken an early lead in the first opinion poll to be published since it called the general election earlier this week. The poll, which appeared in *Borsen*, the Copenhagen financial daily, shows the ruling coalition gaining three seats to hold 73 of the 179 seats in the Folketing (parliament), with

support for the left-wing opposition unchanged. If duplicated on May 10, the result would allow the Government to continue in a slightly stronger position, but would not solve the crisis over nuclear policy.

Last week an opposition motion tabled by the Social Democrats tightened up Denmark's peacetime ban on nuclear weapons on its territory by requiring the Government to inform visiting NATO warships individually that they must not bring nuclear arms into Danish ports.

The passing of that resolution has sparked the second general election in Denmark within eight months, and a serious crisis within NATO. The United States and Britain have said that they cannot accept the Danish resolution and have warned that it would seriously affect plans to send in reinforcements to Denmark in wartime.

Denmark has long been criticized for not spending enough on NATO and for its maverick defence policies of dissenting on joint Alliance decisions. The Danish coalition wants a formula similar to Norway, which has a peacetime ban on atomic weapons but merely asks warships to respect its laws.

Elysée runners set for first big hurdle

From Philip Jacobson Paris

At 8 am on the dot tomorrow, polling stations all over France will open for the nation's 38.3 million registered voters to begin the process of choosing a new President.

By the time the ballot boxes are collected at 6 pm (two hours later for the big cities), about four in every five French citizens will have made their choice from one of the nine candidates competing - some rather more hopefully than others - to contest the run-off exactly a fortnight later.

Only two go through in France's first-past-the-post system, and with M François Mitterrand already looking the safest of bets, the main interest lies in who will oppose him from the right. Unless the



Hands-on politicians (clockwise from left): M Mitterrand who looks set to win the first round of voting tomorrow in which M Barre is likely to be beaten by M Chirac for a place in the run-off, where the votes of M Le Pen could prove crucial.



ubiquitous opinion polls are badly out of line, it will be M Jacques Chirac. The same projections suggest that the present occupant of the Elysée Palace will go on to beat the present Prime Minister with something to spare.

A nation of individualists, the French are reputed to be fond of misleading pollsters and might still spring a few surprises. By tradition, they vote for their favourite candidate first time round, then against the man they least want to see installed as head of state.

That can have interesting repercussions when a particular group of electors is nursing a grudge. In 1981, the country's 1.6 million *piéds noirs* - former settlers in Algeria - went heavily for M Mitterrand because they considered M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing unsympathetic to their cause.

With the final result owing by no more than 650,000 votes, some analysts concluded that the "conscious connection" had helped M Mitterrand win the day (since M Jacques Chirac fought with the French Army in Algeria, he is considered the most likely beneficiary this time).

Then there are the women

voters, more than 20.3 million of them, producing a majority over the men for the first time and, surely, no longer poll fodder for their husbands. Despite the appeal of the dashing and comparatively young M Chirac, they are said to be more likely to favour the left than the male electorate.

Thanks to the baby bulge from 1963-1969, there are now 6 per cent more first-time voters than back in 1981, which has contributed, with a decline in the number of over 65s, to a marginal reduction of the average age of the electorate to about 42.5.

In the same period, there has been an increase in the number of voters who are jobless.

The extraordinary profusion of opinion polls is

another new and potentially important factor in the 1988 campaign. To the uninitiated, some appear to employ suspect methodology, the instant popularity contests taken by computer during peak-time interviews while a candidate is still talking. But although the voting public, and working journalists, may have found the endless processions increasingly irksome, French polls have an impressive enough track record when it comes to forecasting the outcome (including M Mitterrand's victory in 1981).

It was a poll in *Figaro Magazine* which concluded that almost 80 per cent of the French considered that television now exerts tremendous influence over the electorate

as a whole. Hard to prove, perhaps, since M Mitterrand has been limiting his small screen appearances with no apparent damage to his popularity.

It is equally hard to know whether TV is to blame for what veteran observers consider to have been an exceptionally lifeless campaign on the hustings. With rare exceptions, it has been a long, hard slog: too many rallies were just glitzy extravaganzas.

By the end of the trail, it was getting hard to remember which of the candidates had Johnny Hallyday singing rock-and-roll and which had trailed a notably bored looking Alain Delon across the platform while the inevitable light show flashed in the background.

There was a noticeable absence of good fun, too, always excepting the knockabout performances of the star of the Chirac camp, M Charles Pasqua, and some of M Jean-Marie Le Pen's robust asides.

Where was the 1988 equivalent of the late Michel Colucci, alias Coluche, a music hall clown whose scathing opinions about the political process so enlivened proceedings seven years ago?

There were moments when a British observer might even have welcomed a guest performance from Screaming Lord Sutch, that veteran of many an election campaign, who happens to be topping the bill in a Parisian *bolle*.

Leading article, page 11

Shroud cut for carbon date tests

Rome - Three small fragments have been cut out of the Turin Shroud - the burial cloth that may have been wrapped around Jesus Christ after the Crucifixion - and will be subjected to carbon dating in Britain, Switzerland and the United States, the Vatican announced yesterday (Roger Boyes writes).

The pieces, which weigh no more than 150 milligrams, have been sealed and certified under the supervision of Cardinal Anastasio Ballestrero, the Archbishop of Turin, and Dr Michael Tite of the British Museum.

Tornado toll

Dhaka - At least 36 people were killed and more than 300 injured when tornadoes hit three central Bangladesh districts, officials said.

Police swoop

Hong Kong (AFP) - Immigration officers said they have smashed a fake passport syndicate, believed to be the largest in the colony's history.

Plane crash

Maputo (AFP) - A relief plane crashed in the central Mozambique city of Quelimane, killing its Australian pilot and Irish co-pilot.

Film go-ahead

Peking (Reuters) - Chinese cinemas will screen the Oscar-winning film, *The Last Emperor*, despite controversy over its depiction of history, sex scenes and use of the Forbidden City for location shooting.

Gun rampage

Nairobi (AFP) - A Kenyan policeman was charged with murder for allegedly gunning down three people, including a colleague.

Air collision

East Berlin (Reuters) - An East German Air Force pilot died when his plane collided with another military aircraft on a training flight.

Coalition fails

Port Moresby (Reuters) - The effort by the Papua New Guinea Prime Minister, Mr Paias Wingti, to form a government of national unity with his main political rival, Mr Michael Somare, has collapsed.

Mafia arrests

Catania, Sicily (AP) - Police arrested 10 people in a raid on a seaside villa during a "summit" of Mafia figures.

Singapore crackdown

Ministry backs latest arrests

By Gavin Bell

The Government of Singapore has affirmed its resolve to punish severely critics perceived to be "subversive elements", regardless of allegations of human rights abuses.

Rejecting a chorus of protests over the re-arrest of eight young dissidents this week, it said it would not be deterred from enforcing stringent security laws whenever it deemed them necessary.

The five women and three men were arrested under the Internal Security Act which provides for detention without trial, after complaining of police brutality while in prison last year. Mr Patrick Seow, a lawyer who had acted on their behalf, was also detained "in connection with the investigations".

The political activists and church workers were first imprisoned last May and June for alleged involvement in a Marxist conspiracy, but were released after making videotaped "confessions". This week they published an open letter denying the accusations and saying they had been coerced into making statements for television which had been distorted by editing and commentary.

"We have never propagated, in words or in action, a communist state for Singapore," the letter said. They had advocated more democracy and respect for civil rights, but had never been involved in a communist plot.

During their detention, they said they had been deprived of rest for up to 70 hours and forced to stand for more than 20 hours in freezing cold rooms. Most of them had been struck in the face and one was doused repeatedly with water.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of a ninth signatory, Miss Tang Fong Har, a lawyer who is presently in Britain. Diplomatic sources said the Singaporean authorities have not requested her extradition.

Critics of the Government note that none of the detainees is accused of violence or of planning any specific act of violence, and conclude they are being persecuted purely for "thought-crime".

The Ministry of Home Affairs said they had been re-arrested because their statement indicated they would "resume their former activities". It dismissed the

letter as an attempt to generate publicity, trigger agitation by foreign human rights groups and put pressure on the Government. "No Singapore Government can afford to be deterred from using the (Security Act) by such tactics," it said.

The Ministry concluded: "Should the public interest require the Government to detain subversive elements without trial, it will do so."

Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong, the Minister for Trade and Industry, denied that the dissidents had been mistreated but said they may have been subjected to "psychological pressure".

General Lee, the eldest son of the prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, did not appear to be unduly concerned by criticism from abroad. "Naturally we would like a good, friendly image, but what is more important to us is that we are able to deal with serious threats in our own way and according to our own standards."

The Law Society in Singapore and a group of 20 US congressmen have expressed deep concern over the latest arrests.

Mr Francis Seow, a lawyer representing two of the detainees, said he was issuing writs of habeas corpus on their behalf. Interviewed by telephone, he described the detentions as an act of monumental folly. "My feelings are of anger and disgust, mixed with bewilderment at what the Government is trying to achieve. Members of the Bar are just bloody fed up with what's going on here."

Mr J.B. Jeyaretnam, a former opposition member of Parliament, said the arrests amounted to institutionalized intimidation. "It is a complete disregard for law and order; the Government is acting like the mafia."

He was especially concerned about the arrest of Mr Seow, saying it would undermine the judicial system by making other lawyers afraid to act in similar cases.

Protests by the tiny opposition groups are unlikely to gain much open support in Singapore's docile and rigidly-controlled society.

A Western diplomat said: "There will be muttering among young professionals... but there will be no rioting in the streets."

A main difficulty facing the French in deciding how to vote has been the reluctance of any of the principal candidates to engage in straight talking on issues.

This is partly because of a convergence of views among the centre left and right, but also results from the unwillingness of the three main candidates to alienate the floating vote needed for the second round. But certain themes - such as Europe, immigration, the economy, unemployment, defence and education - have run through the campaign and differences in approach emerged.

President Mitterrand cited the challenges of Europe in the 1990s. Only he was capable of uniting France to prepare for a Europe "sans frontières" in 1992. M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, quickly took

up the theme, placing the emphasis on building an economically strong France capable of protecting its interests. M Raymond Barre has all along preached that there must be greater political incentives for investment if French industry is to compete.

Immigration, much to the satisfaction of M Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front candidate, has been one of the dominant themes, as it was in the 1986 general election.

The accent has been on whether non-French immigrants should be given any voting rights and if the National Code should be reformed.

The reluctance on the right to alienate the National Front vote in the second round is demonstrated by M Chirac's refusal to provide answers in an immigration questionnaire

published in the left-of-centre newspaper *Libération* yesterday. Only M Mitterrand is considered to have stuck his neck out by stating that immigrants should have the right to vote in council elections. But this is not a new statement, and nothing was done to implement such a policy between 1981 and 1986 when the Socialists were in power.

M Chirac says that the ambitious privatization programme, begun when his Government came to power in 1986 but halted after last October's Black Monday on the Bourse, will continue.

M Mitterrand says that he will neither continue this programme nor rationalize the companies already privatized. M Barre's position is unclear.

No one now talks of solving the unemployment problem, with the rate running at 10-11

per cent. Instead, the words used by the three main candidates are investment, development and education. All three want to bring in some form of minimum income for all the unemployed and underline the need to educate young people better to enable them to find jobs. But no one has had the courage to bring up the question of how to reform the present higher education system. It has been proved over the years to be the one subject that gets the French on the streets in force.

Consensus on French foreign policy means that it is one of the untouchables in election campaigns. Nevertheless, M Mitterrand's Gaullist stand on France's nuclear deterrent as a vital means of preventing war, not winning it, has led M Chirac to underline his Government's military defence

spending and a wish to enlarge French nuclear options.

All three couple nuclear disarmament with a need to redress the conventional arms balance between the Soviet bloc and Europe.

While M Mitterrand emphasizes global disarmament and peace against nuclear stock-building and war, M Chirac stresses the dangers in conventional and chemical arms for Europe and M Barre warns of the perils of a decoupling between the US and Europe to Moscow's advantage. New Caledonia, the one area of foreign policy where there is a marked difference, M Mitterrand has stated that rights of both majority and minority must be considered in a form of self-government while M Chirac says a referendum shows the majority wants to stay French.

Credentials of the candidates

How the challengers measure up to Mitterrand

From Philip Jacobson and Susan MacDonald

M François Mitterrand (Socialist Party): At the age of 71, fighting his fourth presidential election, he hopes to become the first to serve two terms under the Fifth Republic.

Widely acknowledged as the most complete politician in the field, he is nicknamed "Le Florentin" for a devious touch. "Le Sphinx" for calculated impassivity, "Tonton" (Uncle) for his genuine popular appeal. M Mitterrand has all but abandoned the Socialist label under which he won in 1981, providing further ammunition for claims that he readily sacrifices principle for personal advancement.

Of provincial bourgeois origins, M Mitterrand trained as a lawyer before distinguishing himself in the French Resistance. Entering politics to oppose De Gaulle, he served in almost a dozen ministries, created the present Socialist Party in 1981 and has dominated it ever since.

A complex, intensely private person, M Mitterrand kept France waiting to announce his candidacy, but the polls have vindicated the tactics of clinging to the aura of the presidency, the father of the nation rising above the vulgar political fray. Certain to survive the first round of voting.

M Jacques Chirac (RPR): The 55-year-old Prime Minister started the campaign slowly, but his furious energy and

limitless stamina quickly established him as the main conservative challenger. While extremely personable in private, his unabashed thirst for power and a certain pliability of conviction make it hard for the French to love him.

Despite a credible performance during the past two years of uncomfortable cohabitation with M Mitterrand, he retains a reputation for shooting from the hip rather too often, for cutting corners instinctively.

Starting in the civil service, he became an aide to President Pompidou, then launched into politics himself. Hand-picked as Prime Minister by M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in 1974, he quit two years later to build his own power base on Gaullist foundations. Standing against President Giscard d'Estaing in the 1981 election, M Chirac collected enough conservative votes to be blamed, reasonably, for ensuring the Socialist triumph. With characteristic tenacity, he bounced back to lead the right-wing coalition to power in the 1986 parliamentary elections.

M Raymond Barre (UDF): The self-styled "toroise" of the campaign, this portly 64-year-old's insistence on addressing important issues in somewhat academic tones appears to have backfired. M Barre is undoubtedly the most serious of the main candidates. But without the support of a real party he is now struggling badly against M Chirac's well-oiled, lavishly

financed machine. Even so, his broadly centrist views and transparent decency kept him as the voters' favourite to challenge M Mitterrand in the second round.

Born on Réunion, in the Indian Ocean, M Barre was a respected professor of political

Paris (Reuters) - The British pop star, Sting, yesterday cancelled a scheduled appearance at a Paris election rally for President Mitterrand.

The cancellation was ascribed to "an overloaded schedule", but according to a source in the singer's recording company, Sting cancelled when he discovered the rally was not in aid of human rights, but part of M Mitterrand's re-election campaign.

economics before De Gaulle drew him into government. In 1976, though not an elected politician, he succeeded M Chirac as Prime Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing and was soon making himself spectacularly unpopular with an array of severe austerity measures. Two years later, M Barre became MP for Lyons, his adopted home town. His unwavering opposition to the cohabitation experiment, with its implicit criticism of M Chirac, earned him some powerful enemies among right-wing conservatives.

M Jean-Marie Le Pen (National Front): The latest election posters proclaim this rugged looking 60-year-old as

"L'Outsider" in the presidential stakes. M Le Pen knows he cannot survive the first round, but with between 12 and 13 per cent of the votes behind him, he seems certain to play a decisive role in the run-off. The heavy combination of xenophobia, patriotism and thinly veiled racism that he peddles has even won support from disenfranchised voters on the far left.

The son of a Breton fisherman, M Le Pen was schooled by the Jesuits. After serving as a paratrooper officer in Vietnam, he was active in the *Pontjardists* (conservative, reactionary movement to protect the interests of small traders), becoming an MP representing the populist group in 1956. More military service followed in Algeria, where opponents allege he was involved in ill-treatment of prisoners.

No longer a *Pontjardist*, he founded the National Front in 1972. After a resounding failure in the presidential election two years later, he recovered enough to make the decisive breakthrough with almost 11 per cent of the vote in the 1984 European elections. Since then, "Le Grand Perturbateur" has relinquished his disruptive role in French politics.

Mme Arlette Laguiller (Workers' Movement): A small, slim 48-year-old with a kind face and a simple, direct way of speaking, she is standing for a third time as a candidate in the French presidential elections. She is one of the four

petits candidats standing against the five major candidates in the first round of voting.

Like the other three, she is from the extreme left. She represented the Workers' Struggle party in the elections of 1976 and 1981 and, it is agreed, appears not to have lost her enthusiasm in the intervening years.

Opinion polls give Mme Laguiller 1 per cent of the vote, down on her 2.5 per cent last time. M Pierre Juquin (Independent Communist): A dissident Communist, he is the most important of the "little" candidates. M Juquin, aged 58, is a man of considerable charm, who was once a star of the official Communist Party before trying to reform - its strictly pro-Moscow line.

He stands at just under 3 per cent in the polls, not far behind M André Lajoinie, the official Communist Party candidate, with 6 per cent.

M Antoine Waechter (Greens): At 39 he has taken up the Greens' banner for the first time. Although people feel he talks sense, there is no great ecological or peace movement in France. At a predicted 2.5 per cent, he has yet to reach his predecessor's level of nearly 4 per cent.

M Pierre Bousset (Workers' Party): A member of the wartime Resistance, he is also a long-standing activist on the far left who managed to get the 500 official signatures needed to enter the race.

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مكتبات الأصيل

US fears grow over effects of single European market

From Richard Owen in Brussels and Michael Dynes in London

The United States is becoming increasingly anxious about the political and economic implications of the drive to create a single European market by 1992, senior American officials in Brussels said yesterday.

Ironically, the American concern came as a survey of more than 200 European companies reported that almost 50 per cent of their executives thought the 1992 deadline for the creation of the unified market was unrealistic.

The US Embassy reported a "phenomenal increase" in inquiries about 1992 from American companies and individuals since the campaign got under way following the Brussels EEC summit on finance and farm reform three months ago. On the economic front, US multinationals with established European subsidiaries should have "a foot in the door" when the single market is formed, sources said. But others want a share in the "rich pickings" of the enlarged market, and "the rules are not yet clear".

Current American investment in the EEC amounts to an estimated \$100 billion (almost £53 billion) a year, and US firms employ nine million European citizens. One senior American official said: "The internal walls may come tumbling down, but you are reinforcing the outer walls."

"The Commission demands EEC-wide reciprocity.

Does this mean that when a US bank wants to open in London or Paris after 1992, the EEC will say no because there are too few Portuguese or Greek banks in the US?"

In foreign policy, Washington detects a trend towards discussion of political and security issues within the EEC as part of the 1992 integration process. It is urging Community leaders to confine defence-related matters to Nato, where America has "a seat at the table". On Monday, Mr George Shultz, the American

vian countries, but is now prompting a rising tide of queries from US enterprises, a chamber spokeswoman said.

Yesterday's concern came as the House of Representatives in Washington passed the controversial US Trade Bill - seen in Europe as protectionist - despite the risk of a veto by Mr Reagan. US diplomats maintained that many protectionist clauses had been removed from the Bill (which has gone to the Senate), and it would be a mistake for the EEC to retaliate in a protectionist way.

But US officials warned that the EEC would have to be "more flexible" over farm trade and stop resisting the radical American plan for an end to all agricultural subsidies by the year 2000.

Community sources reported that Mr Frans Andriessen, the commissioner for agriculture, was "sick and tired" of being "put on the defensive" by Washington. The EEC had reformed its Common Agricultural Policy at the Brussels summit and was committed to a gradual reduction of subsidies within Gatt, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Diplomats said there was also growing concern about 1992 in Japan, whose companies in the EEC are being increasingly penalized by the Commission for operating so-called "screwdriver" plants.

These assembly products from parts manufactured outside Europe, mostly in Asia, and then market them in the

EEC. This week, Brussels imposed fines on four Japanese electronic typewriter manufacturers for "screwdriver" practices. Trade tensions with Tokyo are also on the agenda of next week's foreign ministers session in Luxembourg.

The Commission this week announced a £30-million research programme into superconductors to enable European firms to compete with both Japan and America, and said several firms - including GEC, as well as Thomson SA,

6 The new US Trade Bill is seen in Europe as protectionist 9

of France, and the Dutch giant Philips - had applied for research funding.

The European executive survey, conducted by The Wall Street Journal and the management consulting firm Booz-Allen & Hamilton Inc, revealed that many corporate chiefs were not convinced that the single market would act as a boost to economic growth, or help European companies fend off competition from their US and Asian rivals.

Indeed many business leaders are sure that increased competition will only exacerbate Europe's tenacious unemployment problem, as European companies - deprived of their protected national markets - are confronted by successive waves of competition from both inside and outside the EEC.

South Korean students riot over polls



A South Korean student confronting a riot police during an anti-government demonstration at Chungang University in Seoul yesterday.

Throughout the day thousands of radical students were involved in running battles with police on the streets of the capital, as well as in Pusan and Kwangju (AP reports from Seoul).

The protesters called for the defeat of the Government in next Tuesday's National Assembly elections. "Down with

the dictatorship," and "Overthrow the ruling party," they chanted.

The clashes came as the Government deployed thousands of riot police across the nation to crack down on growing campaign violence.

The worst clash came at Joong University in Seoul when hundreds of riot police marched on to the campus to stop a march by students from nine colleges. Protesters hurled hundreds of stones and fire-bombs that exploded in sheets of burning petrol. Police replied with barages of tear gas.

Police also used tear gas to break up a violent student protest in the southern opposition stronghold of Kwangju. Clashes were also reported at two other Seoul colleges and at Dongui University in Pusan.

Several injuries were reported in the clashes, but no overall figures of the casualties were available.

● TOKYO: North Korea yesterday accused South Korean soldiers of firing several rounds across the demilitarized zone on Thursday evening and of destroying some equipment at a guard post.

Lange sets out to melt EEC hearts over butter quota

From Richard Long, Wellington

When Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, argues his case in talks in London next week for continued access to Europe of his country's exported butter, it will be against a background of growing concern over what is seen as Britain's preoccupation with the EEC at the expense of old friends.

Before he left Wellington Mr Lange dismissed any argument based on emotions and said he would be putting New Zealand's case as the world's most efficient butter producer. But it is seen as significant that Mr Lange, who arrives in London tomorrow, will on Monday lay a wreath in the Anzac Day ceremony at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, in memory of New Zealanders who died on European and North African battlefields in two world wars.

He will also visit New

Zealand has for butter. It could not sell the same amount anywhere else for anything near the same price.

Mr Lange is not merely arguing for £1 million, but for the future of an unsubsidized dairy industry which, he says, while the most efficient producer in the world, is being driven from the market place by subsidized production from elsewhere.

Mr Lange said that the case he would present to Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, would go back to the issue of what the economics of the world were all about.

"It is quite alien to that type of thought to have the best, most efficient producer of the highest quality product locked out of the market for political reasons," he said.

There was a realism in the British Government's economic approach to such matters and a hard-headed approach by New Zealand could well be effective in London, he believed.

But Mr Lange at the same time acknowledged that this view would not necessarily prevail across Europe.

While Mr Lange is not noted for treading carefully, New Zealand officials say he will try to keep out of the minefield posed by the Danish moves on the issue of visiting nuclear warships. Mr Lange's Government bans visits by nuclear-powered ships or ships carrying nuclear weapons, a stance which has ended visits from the Royal Navy and the United States Navy and led to New Zealand's effective suspension from the Anzus alliance with the US and Australia.

Mr Lange has so far refused to comment on the Danish moves.

But any attempt by him to send encouraging signals to the Danish anti-nuclear lobby is seen as likely to bring down the wrath of Mrs Thatcher on his head - and to leave him with butter on his face rather than on British plates.

● **Speeding row:** The New Zealand Justice Department has apologized to Mr Lange for taking more than a year to prosecute him for speeding, and then sending the receipt for his fine to another man (Reuter reports).

Mr Lange said the fine showed that no one was above the law. He revealed that the case was more than a year old and criticized the Justice Department for taking so long to prosecute.

"The whole saga is not something of which I am particularly proud," the head of the department's court division said in the report published yesterday.

The matter came to light early this month when an Auckland man received court papers and a receipt for 285 dollars (£100). They carried Mr Lange's name and home address. The report said that the offence happened on December 26, 1986, but because of a computer mix-up Mr Lange did not receive formal notice until February 25 this year. The fine was actually imposed on March 3 and paid on March 29.

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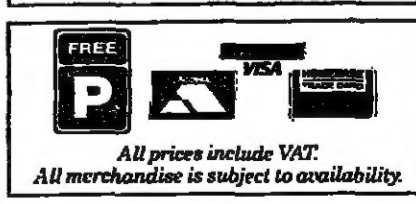
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TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

His time last year we contemplated the hideous fate of the first team ever to be thrown out of the Football League as an automatic punishment for finishing bottom of the fourth division. What fools we were: Lincoln City, cast into the wastes of the GM Vauxhall Conference, have never had it so good. Their fight to get straight back has done wonders for the club and, what's more, promises to be successful. Last Saturday their match against Walsleystone attracted 33 sports writers, half a dozen photographers and two video teams, and the match was featured on radio's *Sport on 2*. The crowd was 4,159; the average for the season is 3,349. Last year in the fourth division, it was 2,022. Money from fund-raising activities is up, and this season the club has opened a new £900,000 stand.

Lincoln have a crucial match today at Kettering. Believe it or not, it is all-ticket, with a limit of 4,000. Lincoln sold their allocation of 800 in two hours. On Easter Monday Lincoln's home game attracted 7,522, their best crowd for six years. On this showing I can only assume that clubs at the bottom of the fourth division must be praying for relegation.

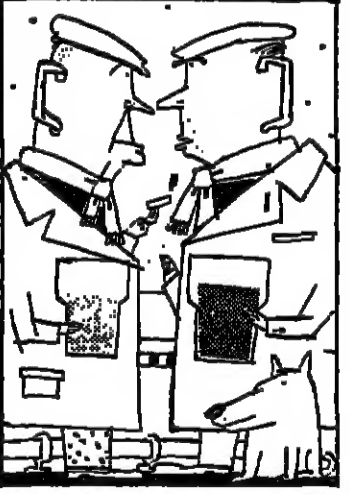
Lincoln manager Colin Murphy certainly deserves attention for these thoughts from last week's programme: "Thinking that the race is won by hurdling the last hurdle is always dangerous and the 'breast of the tape' will possibly be an age from the last hurdle itself whether you be directors, supporters or management. However, as always, success often or always develops their circumstances and maybe it is a more dignified and testing trial to deal with products rather than product." You can't argue with facts like that, can you?

Quote of the Week: from Raymond Hubbard, who last weekend ran three marathons in three days, in Belfast, London and Boston, USA, each in less than three hours: "I think it was probably the hardest weekend in my 34 years."

One of the nice things about writing this column is the occasional nugget of gold brought to me by the postman. The other week I wrote about a former Grand National winner called Tipperary Tip. R.E.F. Maloney wrote to tell me: "The 1928 Grand National was won by Tipperary Tim, he was 100-1, and my father backed him. My share of the spoils was a J.B. Hobbs Force XXXX cricket bat."

The routine way to get ahead in English cricket is to acquire for yourself what Bob Willis once called the "latest nuclear weapon from the West Indies". This is the way the counties go, and this has long been the way of the northern league clubs. The awesome West Indian bowler Eldine Baptiste was leading wicket-taker for Kent last season, but at its close he was released. He had an offer from Oldham — but instead has joined St Gluvias, of the Cornwall Senior League. He will play on a tiny ground just outside Penryn for a fee for the season of around £10,000, to be paid by a Falmouth motor company called Dales. By one of those cosmic coincidences a Dales director, Andrew Ayres, is chairman and a playing member of St Gluvias.

BARRY FANTONI



'Our Jack's a bit of a gambler. He's backing Liverpool for the league'

In my opinion you are either a green-welly person or a yellow-welly person: horse people and yacht people can surely have no common ground, and I say this with all the conviction a horse-person can muster. Chay Blyth, the renowned yachtsman, has attempted to disprove this theory, and look where it has got him. He is even now preparing to sail in the Carlsberg Single-handed Transatlantic Race with his leg — broken in a riding accident — in plaster from the knee down. His boat is thought to have little chance of winning, but there is much speculation that Blyth will use it later to try to break the record from New York to San Francisco via Cape Horn. Blyth tried it once before, was shipwrecked, spent nine hours waiting for rescue, and swore he would never do it again. But you know what yachting people are — just as stupid as us horse people, now I think of it.

Brendan Powell's Grand National victory a fortnight ago was something of a miracle. For he managed it without his St Christopher medal and his cross. His mother had brought both from Lourdes, and Powell had sewn them inside a jumper, which he has worn every race day for the past six years. Powell's car was stolen at Easter and, though it was recovered, his riding gear, with the magic jumper, was missing. But Powell, saying his customary two hail Marys and one Our Father before the race, won the National, thanks to a genuinely miraculous recovery at Becher's, and so collected the winning jockey's Citroen car as a bonus: a day for rejoicing indeed, St Christopher medal or not.

In Moscow on Wednesday, the Soviet Union accepted the plans for a baseball stadium to be built in the Lenin Hills outside Moscow. The plans were presented by Sigeyosi Matsumae, president of the Japanese university, Tokai, that designed it, and came with a gift of nearly £2 million to help build it. The Soviet Union officially recognized baseball two years ago, now has 30 teams and last month became the 65th member of the World Baseball Association.

This has not been the best of weeks for the National Theatre. On Tuesday it was announced that Sarah Miles would not, after all, be making her long-awaited return to the stage as Imogen in Sir Peter Hall's vaudeville production of *Cymbeline* because she was "unhappy with the role", which must have come as a sharp shock to Shakespeare. Sir Peter was also said to be "shattered and deeply disappointed".

By Wednesday the volatile but eccentrically talented Miss Miles was announcing that she had been sacked, though Sir Peter was still talking about "mutual unhappiness". By Thursday it was further revealed that another actor with a considerably longer and more distinguished classical record, Robert Eddison, had also disappeared from the production and there was the strong suggestion from his agent that his resignation had been, to say the least, "invited" by the director. By yesterday, the opening of *Cymbeline* had been postponed for at least three days.

National departures inevitably make more news than a minor casting change at the Leatherhead Rep, but it is more than a little unfortunate that Sir Peter's own farewell season on the South Bank should get off to such a shaky start with a violent series of backstage comings and

Sheridan Morley urges a division of authority at the National

Too much off-stage drama

goings so close to the May openings. This seems to raise a central issue of National management which could well be looked at carefully in the change-over from Hall to the new National director, Richard Eyre, who takes over in the autumn.

In August 15 years ago, Trevor Nunn, who was then in sole charge of the Royal Shakespeare Company, and I were taken to meet the director of the Moscow Art Theatre, a man of Falstaffian proportions who sat behind a vast desk beneath a suitably huge golden seagull to symbolize his company's Chekhovian origins. Accustomed to the usual Hall and Nunn doubling of office and stage work at the National and the RSC, I asked him through the interpreter what play he was himself currently directing.

There was a very long pause. "What?" he echoed in some disbelief. "Rehearsing? I run the Moscow Art Theatre. This is regarded in the Soviet Union as a full-time job. I have directors

who rehearse plays, actors who appear in them and designers who work on the sets. I myself do not have the time."

Looking across his office at Trevor Nunn, I said then, and I will say again now, that this seemed to me a perfectly admirable and enviable arrangement. No man running an organization of the size and complexity of the National or the RSC should also be expected to direct plays there, let alone avoid problems in rehearsal. Many other directors on the South Bank might well have got *Cymbeline* into the kind of casting troubles from which Hall is now suffering, but other directors there don't also have to worry about what is going on across three stages plus a restaurant and an art gallery and a bookshop, not to mention an underground car park.

If another director at the National had sacked a couple of actors, or perhaps even invited them to resign, that would not have made headlines, precisely

because those other directors would not be seen as the kind of figurehead who should be above such unseemly backstage quarrels. Hall has always made news because of the position he holds; when he moves next year to the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, and decides to part company with the occasional actor there, the story will not make the headlines. For as long as he is at the National, even in his closing weeks, his dismissals take on a needless weight and that is precisely why there should now be a division of labour at the top.

The problem is not of Hall's making, and few even among his enemies could doubt that he has been for 15 years an immensely distinguished director of the National. But his productions and his management of the building alike have suffered from the insistence on the double role, just as at the end of the previous Olivier regime Sir Laurence's performances occasionally began to betray the strains of his management.

As good luck would have it, Richard Eyre now moves into office with an unusually able and powerful administrator in David Aukin: if they can achieve a genuine partnership of equals, with Eyre in rehearsal and Aukin in the office, then it might be possible, just possible, to avoid some of the traumas which occur when an individual production runs into deep trouble and its director is also the figurehead for the whole backstage and on-stage operation of the building.

Even if Hall had not chosen to spend some of his National time at Glyndebourne and other addresses, it is still debatable whether he could have got the theatre into much better shape backstage while also directing his own productions there, and much of the discontent that one senses in talking to actors at the National (and, in all fairness, at the Barbican too) is concerned with a leadership which doesn't have the time to look after the company, essentially because it too is closeted in rehearsal.

We do not expect the director of British Airways to fly the aeroplanes out of Heathrow as well, and the sooner we accept the need for powerful subsidized-company administrators, the sooner it will be possible to emerge from backstage chaos. The problem is that this country, unlike most in Europe, has never bred star administrators. Actors and directors have always been regarded as natural company leaders, and the pendulum has always swung between them.

Just as star actors often felt unable to work with the National as long as Olivier was calling the shots, so star directors have often felt unhappy there under Hall — why else would the company have lost such talents as those of Michael Blakemore and Jonathan Miller?

A non-rehearsing administrator could solve many of those ego problems, and might even be able to attract back into the fold such actor-managers as Kenneth Branagh and Anthony Quayle, who have for the time being felt obliged to go it alone. Until we get that balance of power adjusted, we shall forever have to live with backstage crises which somehow suggest that tax-paid money is even more than usually at risk.

The author is Arts Editor and drama critic of Punch.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

Playing to an IRA gallery

New York Charles Haughey's New York outburst was not just an indiscretion or off-the-cuff response to the taunts of Irish-American sympathizers with the IRA. It has been building up for some time. Ever since Sir Patrick Mayhew's clumsily-worded announcement that there would be no further investigation into the Royal Ulster Constabulary's alleged "shoot to kill" policy, the Dublin government has been encouraging anti-British tendencies in the Irish media.

It is not that resentment at Sir Patrick's statement deflected Haughey from a policy — the operation of the Anglo-Irish Hillsborough Agreement — to which his government had seemed committed. The fact is that Haughey saw his opportunity to get off the hook of a policy, and an agreement, which he had always disliked.

Since he formed his present government, by the narrowest of possible margins, Haughey has had an aching problem with the agreement. On the one hand, it was popular with the electorate. So it wouldn't do just to tear it up, not with another election possibly round the corner.

On the other hand the agreement was deeply unpopular with a section of his own party, and this happened to be the very section which had done most to make him leader, and to back his leadership against the dissidents.

The agreement — with the related issue of extradition of terrorist suspects — brought the Haughey loyalists to the verge of rout last year: a most disturbing state of affairs for the leader of Fianna Fail.

It is probable also that Haughey shares many of the feelings of those devoted followers of his. In terms of the general Irish republican tradition, to a branch of which Haughey and his friends belong, the Hillsborough Agreement is a monstrosity. In terms of that

tradition, the agreement means co-operating with the British forces of occupation in helping them to maintain and govern the artificial entity called "Northern Ireland" which Britain invented in order to keep Ireland divided.

So when those demonstrators in New York yelled "Traitor!" and "Collaborator!" Haughey must have winced, feeling the force of the charges. But he would have kept his wincing to himself, had he not judged that the political climate in Ireland is propitious for a forthright Republican declaration. He may perhaps turn out to be wrong about how propitious the climate is. But he has certainly some good grounds for believing that anti-British feeling is at present sufficiently high for such a statement to be acceptable.

Haughey doesn't want to be seen, even now, as the man who broke off the agreement. But what if the British themselves can be portrayed as breaking it, at least in the spirit? That is how many in the Republic regard Sir Patrick Mayhew's statement, the outcome of the appeal by the Birmingham Six and the shooting of the three IRA bombers in Gibraltar.

This tactic has been working pretty well up to now but in his New York statement Haughey may have over-reached himself.

In Ireland there is a right and a wrong way of sounding anti-British. The right way is to do it discreetly. Jack Lynch was so good at it that he could sound anti-British to an Irish audience without the British ever noticing. And Lynch, unlike Haughey, was a man who won overall parliamentary majorities for Fianna Fail.

Haughey, who ousted Lynch from the party leadership, cannot be expected to achieve Lynchian standards in discretion. But on the whole, up to New York, he had handled his present anti-British line pretty well. He managed to sound like a man who was doing his best to



co-operate with the British, who for their part were making things impossible for him. Quite acceptable, all that. But New York was an exercise in overt Brit-bashing, and looked like an effort to please — or appease — an Irish-American pro-IRA gallery. That is unlikely to go down well with middle-of-the-road people in Ireland. The Irish-American super-patriots are not all that popular in Ireland. They come across and tell us, the Irish in

Ireland, that we are not patriotic enough to meet the exacting standards of those who left their country for good.

Even had it not been for that Irish-American gallery, I think the statement will still be likely to hurt Haughey politically as soon as its effects on Anglo-Irish relations are felt. If his government does indeed have as its "central driving

ambition" the creation of a united Ireland, then this is an inappropriate government for a people which is not in the grip of any such central driving ambition but just wishes Northern Ireland would stop. One reason the Anglo-Irish Agreement was so popular — once — was that it created a feeling that somehow the Northern Ireland problem had been solved, by an accord between "the two sovereign governments".

Nonsense, of course, but soothing nonsense. Haughey's New York nonsense, on the other hand, is the alarming kind. It's too close to the way the IRA talk and those who like the way the IRA talk are a small minority in the Republic of Ireland. And Haughey, personally and politically, would be well advised to avoid sounding like the IRA. That can arouse disturbing echoes. Was there not something a bit odd, back in 1970, or around there? And didn't Jack Lynch say something then about "a shadow of suspicion" lingering over Haughey?

True, the Brit-bashing line is going great guns with the Haughey loyalists in Fianna Fail. But Haughey's chronic problem is that what pleases those people tends to offend the very people whose support he needs if he is ever to win an overall majority. Also, over exercises in Brit-bashing tend to frighten the business community, which has been quite well disposed towards Haughey as long as he could keep his Anglophobe tendencies and associations under control.

All in all, I think that unless Haughey can draw back a bit, his present line may damage Fianna Fail in the next elections. But it will be very hard for him to draw back, now that the emotions of his followers have been fanned by his own words.

There are, however, few indications so far that the New York speech has yet done any harm to Haughey. The Dublin media has played down the Brit-bashing aspects of the speech, and in any case Hillsborough has lost most of its charm. But as the accelerating deterioration in Anglo-Irish relations becomes clearer to people in the Republic, I think that Haughey's effort to put all the blame for that on to the British may fail to convince the floating voters when the election comes round.

Commentary • MICHAEL KINSLEY

The gaffer speaks

Washington The Larry Speakes episode, a joyous festival of hypocrisy, ended on a poignant note when the lost his job. Speakes, President Reagan's former spokesman, had been hired at a huge salary by the financial giant Merrill Lynch & Co, which sacked him after the fuss over revelations — in his own newly published memoirs — that he occasionally made up quotes for Reagan. No doubt he had been making up quotes for Merrill Lynch executives as well — what else does a "Vice-president for Corporate Communications" do? But by publishing his kiss-and-tell memoir he squandered his only real asset: friendship with those in power.

Made-up quotes are the heart of a thousand daily press releases. It might be said if the president's press operation could be of a higher standard, but everyone knows this is a president who needs a script to say "Good morning" when a couple of senators drop by his office.

One of the quotes Speakes admits to fabricating was Reagan's reported remark at the 1985 Geneva summit. You only have to picture the scene to realize it is phoney. Imagine Reagan actually saying to Gorbachev: "Our differences are serious, but so is our commitment to improving understanding."

Yet one of television's star White House correspondents professed himself "dabbling" to learn that such a conversational gem was never uttered. The real joke is that this correspondent, like every journalist covering official life throughout the world, reports this sort of pap with a straight face every day. My favourite outraged reaction was that of a former press secretary to Presi-

dent Lyndon Johnson who declared hauffly that he would never put out a made-up quote without making sure the president had seen it before.

Speakes' book is the *reductio ad absurdum* of two publishing fashions. One is the fad for memoirs by big shots, ghost written by professional hacks in a sub-literary conversational style. It started with the phenomenal success several years ago of an autobiography "by" Lee Iacocca, the chairman of Chrysler Corporation.

Two things make Speakes' product, ghosted by one Robert Pack, especially absurd. First, he never was a real big shot. He was just a minor character who got his job by gruesome chance (when his superior was shot during the assassination attempt on Reagan). Second, although his only claim to fame is as a spokesman for someone else, he needs a third party to put words into his own mouth for a book. Sub-specialization in the plagiarist industry has really gone too far.

Mr Hack, I mean Pack, doesn't strain himself. When Speakes sat in the Oval Office, "I felt a cold shudder going down my spine... What's a kid from a dusty little cotton town in Mississippi doing here?" When Reagan heard about the Challenger disaster, he "had the saddest look on his face I have ever seen." And so on.

The other unfortunate development is that publishers hungering for Washington memoirs do not want a rounded portrait, let alone a serious discussion of public affairs, but rather little scooped-up news that will make the front page. That, apparently, sells books, which is odd. Why shell out \$19.95 for a book when you've

already read all the juicy stuff in the papers? Publishers, I suspect, assume — correctly — that many books — become bestsellers for reasons other than an actual desire to read them.

So the publisher hires a ghost to plumb the author's brain for "scoops". But scoops of a particular kind. For example, Reagan's former budget director, David Stockman, made headlines by saying in his memoirs that Reagan's tax cuts favoured the rich and would lead to huge deficits. Hardly news; the news was that Stockman said it.

Thus, in a weird twist of the hoary Washington practice of leaving office and cashing in, insiders are now in the business of selling their own gaffes. A gaffe is when a politician tells the truth — some obvious truth he isn't supposed to say. Capitalizing on the media's huge appetite for gaffes, insiders now manufacture them for profit.

Like cultured pearls, manufactured gaffes are more perfectly shaped but somehow less aesthetically pleasing than the natural kind. Since Speakes' views on any serious issue are of no conceivable interest, his manufactured gaffes consist entirely of insults to his former colleagues. Ed Meese is an "ideologue". Caspar Weinberger "a hard-line, a small man, a whiny type of guy." Reagan "delegates many... duties to his subordinates" while Nancy is powerful behind the scenes and would "stab you in the back".

All this is deadly Washington cliché by now. It would be far more interesting if Speakes were to report that Reagan is actually a stickler for detail, Nancy is sweet and sensible, and Weinberger is really six feet four. The author is editor of New Republic.

SCIENCE REPORT

Shedding light

Some remarkable plants that fluoresce with an amethyst hue under ultraviolet light can be seen on the front cover of *Science* (April 15). What is more, they have a sweet aroma absent from the normal species of which the fluorescent variety is a mutant.

Unfortunately, from the gardener's point of view, the mutant lacks vigour. But these properties are largely fortuitous and irrelevant to the geneticists who describe the mutant. Their aim is to have produced, by careful planning, the first plants that lack the ability to make a full complement of amino acids, the chemical building blocks of proteins. They hope that their discoveries will help provide details of plant metabolism.

Robert Last and Gerald Fink of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology work on a weed called *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Common Wall Cress) favoured by geneticists because its genetic material is modest in quantity and uncomplicated in arrangement.

To select their mutant, Last and Fink grew *Arabidopsis* plants in the presence of a substance called anthranilate. This is normally broken down as soon as it is made by an enzyme called anthranilate phosphoribosyl transferase. But the gene for this enzyme is defective in the mutant plants so anthranilate accumulates in them; and, quite incidentally, anthranilate fluoresces. This allows the mutants requiring tryptophan to be easily distinguished from normal plants under an ultraviolet lamp.



David Hart

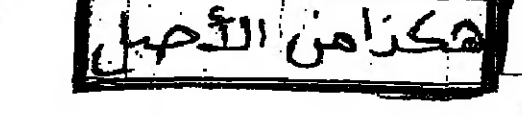
They are also distinguished by their small leaves and bushy appearance. And their profuse flowers are not as fertile as those of the normal plants. For some reason, feeding the mutants with tryptophan does not restore them to normal healthy vigour. Last and Fink think that many of the abnormal features of the mutants, especially their bushiness, could be related to hormonal balance.

Normal plant growth is believed to be controlled by a hormone called auxin. This substance is chemically related to tryptophan, and may be derived from it, and any deficiency in tryptophan metabolism could affect the levels of auxin in the plant tissues.

Apart from the plants' novelty value, the research, which excites interest because it applies tried and trusted methods to produce new varieties of plant. New-tech genetic engineering is nowhere to be seen. Rather than introducing foreign genes, Last and Fink exploit the plants' inherent genetic potential to explore their biochemistry and generate new varieties.

And because many aspects of plant biochemistry are still unknown, they say the process of making the mutants, not just the final result, was instructive. Mutants such as these are valuable test beds for ideas about metabolism. The glow of these particular mutants may eventually illuminate the secrets of plant hormones, and the way plants grow.

JOHN MADDOX





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PRESIDENTIAL POWERS

France begins voting tomorrow for the great office of which this year is the 30th anniversary. Thirty years is a short time in the life of a political institution.

Thirty years after the first United States presidential election, the President was a distinguished man (James Monroe), but relatively little could have been said for certain about the powers of his office, and the powers—or lack of them—likely to be exercised by his successors. More than 200 years after the foundation of the American Presidency, Americans are still arguing about who has the last say in the conduct of American foreign policy—President or Congress. There is also that repeated argument about the War Powers Act, so there is even doubt as to when the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, the President, can use them.

The interests of America's allies, and enemies, are at stake in the outcome of such constitutional dispute. It is the same with the Presidency of the Fifth Republic. The head of the French government is, on the face of it, more domestically powerful than the two other most important European heads of government: the British Prime Minister and the Federal German Chancellor. Unlike them, he can clothe his partisan activities in the more dignified guise of head of state.

Until two years ago, President Mitterrand was the partisan politician he had been all his long career. His cause—a revisionist socialism—was steadily making him unpopular. It was almost universally assumed that, once his party had lost its parliamentary majority, which in 1986 it duly did, its leader would lose the presidency in 1988.

But M. Mitterrand, having lost the Assembly, could play the dignified head of state. Heads of government tend to become more and more unpopular. Dignified heads of state tend to become more and more popular. Hardly anyone had thought of that.

What had happened was that, between 1986 and now, the institution of the presidency had evolved. It had done so in the way that political institutions often do: through the actions and character of a particular holder. Many French voters now like the idea of *cohabitation* between President and Prime Minister of different parties rather than the way that many Americans, judging by how they vote for one party in Congressional elections and another in

presidential, like one form of power to be balanced by another.

In the end *cohabitation* will confuse France, and her allies, just as the balance between President and Congress has often done in the United States. But at the moment it is a force for calm. Had M. Mitterrand kept his parliamentary majority in 1986, it is reasonably certain that he would be about to lose the presidency tomorrow, which places another question mark over the office. Is an unfettered French President re-electable?

None has been re-elected by the mass franchise so far. M. Mitterrand is at present favourite to be re-elected because of that fettering in 1986. But of the three other Fifth Republic Presidents, the first—de Gaulle—was originally elected by restricted franchise in the crisis year of 1958. Subsequent presidential election was to be by the mass franchise. De Gaulle did win a majority from that full electorate, in 1965, but only once. Pompidou died during his first term. M. Giscard d'Estaing was not re-elected.

Time is the probable explanation. It is very difficult for any partisan politician to be popular at the end of seven years. After five, he may just achieve the feat, though most British Prime Ministers prefer to test the matter after about four. One of the good reforms in M. Mitterrand's manifesto is a five-year presidential term.

But he also proposes that the Prime Minister, as the embodiment of a parliamentary majority, should only be dismissed by Parliament instead of—as now—by the President. With suspicious modesty, he claims the present constitution makes the President too powerful. More probably, his pride is forcing him to try—at this late hour—to appear consistent with his floundering 30 years ago that the new constitution was a "permanent coup d'état".

A Prime Minister permanently at the Assembly's mercy would plunge France and her allies back into the successive governments and parliamentary opportunism from which the present constitution rescued the country, and Europe, in 1958. M. Mitterrand should continue tacitly to accept that he was wrong 30 years ago and to keep the constitution from which he looks like being so undeserved a beneficiary tomorrow.

HACKING AT THE LAW

New technology leads to new forms of crime, and often needs new law to prevent it. The law of theft, for instance, was found inadequate to deal with joy-riding, and a new offence of "taking and driving away" was introduced to cover the gap. The unanimous decision of five Law Lords on Thursday, that computer hacking is not illegal under laws written before it was heard of, presents a parallel case.

The parliamentary programme is very crowded. The issues are very complex. And it does not follow from one Lords judgement that this is a matter which needs the urgent attention of the legislators. None the less in what we designate "the information age" the laws governing information need special concern. The Law Commission, which is currently considering such matters, would be wise to intensify its activity.

A hacker is anyone who finds the means to communicate with a computer system in defiance of certain measures built into the system to stop him doing so. Computers are often connected to each other through the public telephone network and a standard way to discourage an unwanted connection is to arrange that one computer has first to ask for a pre-arranged password from the other—like sentries on the battle field.

The average amateur hacker has become so fascinated by computing that this simple protocol is an affront to his ingenuity. His favourite mischief is to outwit such security precautions by instructing his computer to bluff its way past the password stage, so as to send and receive data uninvited.

The legal premise behind the recent prosecution of two hackers was that such behaviour is a criminal offence under the Forgery and

Counterfeiting Act. That has now been rejected by the Law Lords. But the status of like acts is still not clear.

Hacking which interferes with someone else's property, for instance by destroying data stored in a computer, is already covered by the criminal offence of malicious damage. Hacking in order to defraud financially is fraud in law. Hacking to gain access to official secrets is against the Official Secrets Act—and doubtless will be against its successor too.

But hacking for the thrill of seeing on a home computer screen the words "Good afternoon, this is HRH the Duke of Edinburgh"—which was part of the alleged offence considered by the House of Lords on Thursday—is in none of those classes. Should it have a class of its own? Or should computer owners simply reconcile themselves to the openness of their systems—trying to outwit the hacker by changing passwords as best they can?

Then, does the law of confidentiality protect information that is hacked out of a computer but used without criminal intent? There are difficulties too of comprehension, evidence and proof in a world closed to the non-expert.

The so-called "logic bomb" is an unauthorized program which can be self-triggered to wreck the contents of a data storage disc, leaving no trace. The so-called "virus", a program which conceals its very presence in the system, can secretly subvert the host computer's operation or corrupt its store of data. It is likely the law will need to be adjusted to make such bizarre forms of sabotage—already against the law—easier to bring to book. As for extending the law, the Law Commission should put its own computers on overtime to assess what comes next.

HALFWAY ACROSS THE RUBICON

There is a great deal less than meets the untutored eye in President Botha's latest announcement of a new constitutional deal for South Africa's voteless blacks. Great excitement has greeted this speech. Sadly, after years of stalled reform, even the slightest sign of movement is easily taken for one of hope.

The Heath Robinson devices which the South African Government markets as constitutional models are always fascinating in their attempts to address the great central question of South African political life—how a minority group in a plural society can share power without losing it. That question remains unanswered by Mr Botha's latest attempt at constitutional sleight of hand.

True, he has suggested the creation of regional bodies which black South Africans not resident in the homelands can elect to manage their "own affairs". He has implied that these in turn might elect representatives to a higher forum, and has hinted at the creation of a structure in which blacks would join white and coloured leaders in consensus decision-making. Moreover, certain black leaders may be allowed a voice in the election of the South African president.

The plan is both elaborate in conception and vague in detail, but it bears all the well-known hallmarks of Pretoria's constitutional tinkering: the insistence on the group or race as the bedrock of the Constitution and the devolution to lower bodies of responsibility without a proliferation of powerless political structures—no fewer than 14 finance ministers for the different homelands and groups—which have burdened South Africa with hugely expensive

ethnic bureaucracies. It would be easy to forgive Mr Botha for continuing down this unpromising path if it had yielded one positive result. His preference for elaborate contrivances to real organic political change has not, however, served him or his party well. Nothing he has offered in the past has tempted even the most moderate black South Africans to sample his wares. There is little suggestion that they will feel any compulsion to do so this time.

But this is no longer Mr Botha's primary concern. Instead, after the by-election shocks earlier this year which convinced the Government that Mr Botha could lead it to its first defeat in 40 years, his obsession has been to head off Dr Andries Treurnicht and his Conservative Party.

Dr Treurnicht, who seems set to score major gains in the nationwide municipal elections later this year, has played up the Government's failure to produce a coherent plan for South Africa's constitutional future which will also guarantee "white security". In this week's address to Parliament, Mr Botha tried to answer that charge in a way which would stop the drift to the right, even as it convinced English-speaking voters—essential to his hold on power now that half of Afrikanerdom is lost to him—that his Government is not as bankrupt of reformist ideas as they suspect.

The South African President could find once again that, by trying to reassure all South Africans, right and left, black and white, he has pleased none. Three years ago he tried to lead his divided nation across his Rubicon. He stopped in midstream. That is where he remains today.

Role of Lords in poll tax clash

From Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, KG, CH, FRSE
Sir, From my reading of the Commons Hansard in yesterday's debate it seems to have been accepted by Mr Mates and the Leader of the Opposition that Government or other amendments to the community charge could lawfully be made in the House of Lords.

This is contrary to my understanding of the Constitution as declared in Erskine May (20th edition, pp.842 and following) and Halsbury's Laws of England, 4th edition, vol. 34 s.v. Parliament at paras 1021, and 1022 and following.

The community charge is, I believe, in the sole gift of the Commons, under the Constitution as it now exists. The privileges of the Commons in this respect are quite independent of the money Bill provisions of the Parliament Act 1911 (see s.6 of that Act) and date back at least to resolutions of 1671 and 1678.

The passage in Erskine May makes it clear that, save in the case of private Bills, where the Commons "do not insist" on their privilege, the privilege has long been regarded as applying to rates and other local impositions as well as taxes and that the true version of the privilege is now and always has been that imposition of any general rate, tax, or charge "is in the sole gift of the Commons" and that the "ends purposes considerations and qualifications of such grants... ought not to be changed or altered by the House of Lords" (see Commons Journals [1860] 360 and [1910] 95).

Yours truly,
HAILSHAM,
House of Lords,
April 19.

Equality in sport

From Mr Derek Wyatt
Sir, Jeff Butterfield's letter and your leader (April 19) on the Zola Budd fiasco deserve further attention.

If I was an athlete from Africa, or Scandinavia, or America I would look at the British sporting stand on South Africa and conclude that it is wrong for me to suffer (again) by missing out on the Olympics. Rather I would urge all the sporting federations that represent me, including my own national Olympic committee, to move heaven and earth to suspend the United Kingdom from the IOC (International Olympic Committee) or the IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation) or whatever until such time as British sport came to order.

Delay at customs

From Mr N. A. Tatham
Sir, Returning recently by car ferry from Calais to Dover, I was irritated by the long delay occasioned by my passing through the "red" channel to declare two cases of champagne (which were, incidentally, trade samples).

The thought of waiting for 30 minutes at a port is sufficient to encourage many, normally honest, people to opt for the "green" channel, especially if only relatively small amounts of money are involved.

Musical aid

From Lady Barbirolli
Sir, On February 18 your Spectrum page reported on the problems produced for young musicians by the high prices of musical instruments. May we, please, inform your readers of the Benslow Musical Instrument Loan Scheme?

The scheme in its original form was announced in a letter published in *The Times* on January 23, 1932, from the philanthropist, Mrs Edith Croll, and the violin teacher, Editha Knocker. It was intended to relieve the difficulties experienced by advanced students in purchasing adequate instruments, and... the discouragement caused in consequence.

Mrs Croll's loan scheme was supported by many eminent musicians, including Sir Henry Wood. Gifts, loans and bequests from many benefactors built up a substantial stock of violins, violas and cellos, and modest cash reserves, and the scheme was registered as a charity. Recently the trustees have retired and have transferred the scheme to the Benslow Music Trust (also a registered charity) by which it is being re-launched.

The need which Mrs Croll described is now greater than ever. The expansion of musical education produces more students; levels of attainment are higher; and, as your report showed, the cost of good instruments has increased enormously.

The new trustees have decided to expand the scheme to include other types of instruments; and they hope, when resources are available, also to make loans for purchase of instruments, to provide a bar chart of sentence lengths for the whole document.

Through the fog

From Mr David Mason
Sir, Your report (April 12) of the Metropolitan Police's efforts to improve the standard of English through the force was read with great interest in this department. We have been tackling a similar problem, that of impenetrable student reports on their industrial projects, with some success.

One of our final-year students, Elsa Hansen, has developed a program which will take any piece of word-processed text, scan it, and automatically calculate the "Fog Index", highlighting offending paragraphs and identifying all words over three syllables long. This "style processor" also displays a bar chart of sentence lengths for the whole document.

From Mr Tim Rathbone, MP for Lewes (Conservative)
Sir, Might I suggest that there is a most important constitutional point implicit in your first leader today (April 20) which should be made explicitly.

The question of fairness of any flat-rate community charge is central to the debate about the Local Government Finance Bill, in fact and in perception and whether in comparison to the rates or in absolute terms of ability to pay.

The Secretary of State for the Environment, ministers, and most Conservative members in the Commons take the position, at least in public, that all is fair and all is well. That is how things are nowadays, with the Executive of ministers in Cabinet drawing power from a strictly whipped party majority in the Commons, discouraging questions from outside Government and even thought and question inside Government, whichever party is in power.

Yet here we have a very sizeable minority of MPs of all parties expressing severe reservations about this interpretation of what is fair, attempting yet failing to protect people from what many fear to be overweening use of executive power.

Once more the House of Commons fails in its historic role, the very one for which it originally came into existence after the Battle of Lewes over 700 years ago. You are right, Sir, to urge the Lords now to take on that responsibility.

Yours truly,
TIM RATHBONE,
House of Commons,
April 20.

British sport is controlled by a collection of ramshackle associations comprising the Sports Council, the British Olympic Association, and the Central Council of Physical Recreation. These are topped up by a junior minister. Their stand on South Africa—or, rather, their lack of stand over South Africa—will only further anger the sporting fraternity outside this island.

We can ignore them, but we do so at our own peril. We are no longer the force we thought we were in international sporting circles.

Yours,
DEREK WYATT,
7 Dickenson Road, N8,
April 19.

Might I suggest that forms be provided on car ferries, hovercraft, etc., listing all the normal categories of wine, spirits, tobacco and perfume, which could then be completed before landing by those with excess. Such forms would then be handed in at a window (as with passports) and the amount owed quickly calculated.

I am sure that this would not only save much time and frustration but also increase revenue.

Yours sincerely,
N. A. TATHAM,
14 George Street, Bedford,
April 19.

vide for students a service comparable to that which, as you reported, the Prince of Wales's Loan Fund for Musical Instruments provides for young professionals.

As Mrs Croll wrote, there are many instruments lying unused, whose owners may be glad to give, lend or bequeath them to the scheme, which will take responsibility for their care and insurance, and has honorary advisers of the highest distinction. We shall be glad to supply more information, both to those who are interested in supporting the scheme, with instruments or financially, and to potential borrowers.

Yours sincerely,
EVELYN BARBIROLLI
(President),
Benslow Music Trust,
Little Benslow Hills,
Benslow Lane,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

Disaster planning

From Mr B. H. Harvey
Sir, Air Commodore Innes's statement (April 14) that the "Seveso" directive compelled the British Government to deal with major industrial hazards is almost the exact opposite of the facts, since the directive owes so much to the three reports of the Advisory Committee on Major Hazards set up after the Flixborough disaster of 1974 on the initiative of Mr Michael Foot, the then Secretary of State for Employment, well before the Seveso accident.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN HARVEY (former Chairman, Advisory Committee on Major Hazards),
2 Surley Row, Caversham,
Reading, Berkshire.

It is designed to be used in conjunction with a commercial word-processing package and outputs a file ready to be amended by the author using that package.

While this work is capable of dramatic improvements in style, we are not yet able to offer the option of, say, Hemingway or Joyce—but we are working on it!

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MASON,
Department of Systems and Computing Studies,
North East London Polytechnic,
Lombard Road,
Dagenham, Essex,
April 14.

Living in peace with blacks

From the Reverend J. Bogle
Sir, I live in a street in inner London where I have black neighbours on either side and across the street. I work in a church with black people and minister regularly to black families. My children are being educated with black children by black teachers and have black friends.

I do not regard this as cause for fearfulness or feeling threatened. Why should I? Rather do I rejoice in these friendships. And that would be, I believe, the judgement of the overwhelming majority of our people.

Mr Enoch Powell (article, April 19) foresees the breakdown of peace and good government from the presence of coloured immigrants and their offspring. The only danger is that such a prophecy should be self-fulfilling. Good sense will see to it that it is not.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BOGLE,
8 Waller Road, SE14,
April 20.

Mammon's big guns

From Mr T. G. Stanton
Sir, Viscount Tenby's letter (April 18) misses the point. He says "Is it right that Mammon should have all the big guns, and is this one of the more unacceptable faces of a free market economy?" The point he has missed is that developers do not operate in a free market economy.

For them to do so, all planning controls need to be abolished. When that happens, adequate numbers of houses will be built without restraint at prices people can afford in places where they want to live. The fact that any land could then be built on at the wish of the owner would mean that all land would be available and prices would fall. The same would apply to all types of business development.

The infrastructure would follow because without it people would not move. At the moment they have no choice but to move, infrastructure or not, because there is nowhere else for them to go.

In this area we have the ludicrous situation where people who have fought for years to preserve their quality of life by preventing development in their villages are now complaining that the village shops and post-offices and other amenities, including small schools, are closing because there is insufficient population to justify keeping them open. This is the result not of a free market economy, but of state control.

Yours faithfully,
T. G. STANTON,
Wintle & Co (Solicitors),
44a High Street,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

Words of wisdom

From the Vicar of Chelsea Old Church
Sir, When Mr and Mrs Murphy (April 20) bring their child to be christened their local vicar will help them to see the profound depth of meaning and truth in the baptism service.

Meanwhile, advice sought and given by my late brother, as he drove with his daughter to her wedding, would seem to pass the test: "Keep the commandments and keep out of debt".

Yours faithfully,
LEIGHTON THOMSON,
Old Church House,
4 Old Church Street, SW3.

From Mrs Angela Mackenzie
Sir, To Mr and Mrs John Murphy, whose child will be born in a few weeks, what about the hope that he or she may always be a blessing to others?

Yours faithfully,
ANGELA MACKENZIE,
31 Cleasby Road, Menston,
Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

From Miss M. E. Jelley
Sir, What will remain true throughout the life of Mr John Murphy's as yet unborn child is that death is certain, but that it matters most what he or she does with the space in between.

Yours truly,
MARY E. JELLEY,
The Shepherd's Cottage, Chute, via Andover, Hampshire.

From Mrs F. J. Harrison
Sir, I would suggest—as alas—"The world is an increasingly treeless jungle".

Yours faithfully,
FENELLA HARRISON,
Woodcote Lodge,
West Horsley, Surrey.

From Brigadier R. Rhoderick-Jones
Sir, "Mummy and Daddy love you".

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RHODERICK-JONES,
Mortyn, Fiddleshinton,
Dorchester, Dorset.

From Mr Leslie Harry Hart
Sir, What statement remains true throughout a lifetime?—"Nothing lasts".

Yours faithfully,
L. H. HART,
81 Ardmore Lane,
Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

From Mr S. Sherwood
Sir, The only answer to John B. Murphy's request for life-long valid advice to his unborn child is, without doubt, "Keep away from the Stock Exchange".

Yours very truly,
S. SHERWOOD,
12 Westpoint, Putney Hill, SW15.

From Mr Andrew Wilkes
Sir, "You never can tell".

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WILKES,
51 Waterford Lane,
Lymington, Hampshire.

From Mr A. G. Trevenen James
Sir, In writing of his "Fears that have not changed" has Mr Enoch Powell overlooked the fact that it is a Commonwealth immigrant (Mr Ravi Tikko) who is hoping to create thousands of jobs for shipyard workers in Belfast (report, April 20) and that it, when elderly Mr Powell is hospitalised, he will have a good chance of being cared for by immigrant auxiliary workers, nurses and doctors?

Yours faithfully,
A. G. TREVENEN JAMES,
Flat 7,
125 Harley Street, W1.

From Mr Gavin Littaur
Sir, In 1968 I read with dismay a full report of Mr Enoch Powell's "rivers of blood" speech which, I note, he has just commemorated and endorsed by means of an extended article. I still find Mr Powell's view to be profoundly misguided.

Curiously, he congratulates himself for finding evidence to support his prediction that nearly 10 per cent of the population of Great Britain will consist of "ethnic minorities" by the year 2000. But is it an offence to be in a growing minority?

If the present "majority" were to become a shameful "minority", to which country would Mr Powell—assuming he would still be in rude health—feel obliged to emigrate? May I suggest South Africa, where instigators of racial prejudice, both blind and sophisticated, might still be acclaimed by captivated audiences.

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN LITTAUR,
24 Stormont Road,
Highgate, N6,
April 19.



ON THIS DAY

APRIL 23 1934

The British soon shone at gliding: Philip Wills, CBE (1907–1978) was world champion in the single-seater contest in 1933 and F. N. Slingsby, MBE (1894–1973) was a famous maker of winning sailplanes. Both were in at the founding of the Sutton Bank site.

NATIONAL GLIDING SCHOOL

SITE SECURED IN YORKSHIRE

From Our Aeronautical Correspondent

The first steps are being taken to establish a British gliding school similar to the famous German centre at the Wasserkuppe. The site at Sutton Bank, 20 miles north of York, has been obtained on lease from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. A number of previous tenants have surrendered their shooting rights. A hangar and clubhouse are to be erected forthwith and the National School of Soaring Flight will probably be opened at the beginning of August.

This site, between the White Horse and Roughton Scar, about seven miles from Thirsk, is as good a soaring site as anything of the sort in Germany. It has both a westerly and southerly slope. It is 600ft above the surrounding country, and on the westerly side there is a bowl-shaped formation which serves admirably as a scoop for deflecting the wind upwards. The British Gliding Association has secured control of this land, which measures about 500 yards by 400 yards, and intends to enclose it and proceed with preparations.

The characteristics of Sutton Bank were tested in October, when a series of competitions was held there. The meeting was most successful, and at one time nine gliders were soaring 1,000ft above the ridge at the same time. The alternative faces at the end of the ridge increase the chance of good soaring conditions, but the height of the launching ground is still more important. The headquarters of the London Gliding Club on Dunstable Downs is only 200ft above the surrounding country. An additional 400ft may make all the difference to the height and duration of a soaring flight.

At the present stage in British soaring flight the disparity is not due to lack of skill nor wholly to lack of high-efficiency machines. Given a good launching site the band of British pilots produced by the London Gliding Club could probably challenge German pilots using similar machines. This is a notable achievement in a movement which has had only four years in which to establish itself. In 1930 gliding was revived in this country, and something like 100 clubs were started. Very few have survived, but among them is the London club, which has become probably the most efficient unsubsidised gliding school in the world...

The British Gliding Association has delegated control of the scheme to a committee consisting of Messrs Philip Wills (London), Norman Sharpe (Bradford) and F. Slingsby (Scarborough).

When the school opens pupils will be able to take out instruction in soaring machines, and it is hoped that the prospect of good soaring conditions will attract pilots of powered aeroplanes, who hitherto had few opportunities to study the behaviour of air currents.

The knot in the heart of Seoul

After visiting the Olympic city, Chris Peachment feels this year's competitors may find the stadiums the most civilized places in town

I first encountered kimchi breath in the lift of the hotel. There was no one in the lift, but the previous occupants had obviously been eating kimchi, as Koreans do, for breakfast, lunch and tea, and the wall of fumes left me reeling in the corner, clutching at my throat, eyes streaming. Never mind air-liners, the lifts in this country should come equipped with smoke hoods. Kimchi is a kind of shredded cabbage, a member of the sauerkraut family, which is steeped in hot peppers and then garnished with garlic. There is summer kimchi, and there is winter kimchi; winter kimchi is double strength. The only way to fight back against the great stinking miasma which rises like swamp-gas in enclosed public places is to eat some yourself. Actually, it doesn't taste too bad. It clears the sinuses a treat, and, if you are redecorating, it is very useful for stripping off old paint; just breathe on the walls. You could, probably clean the oven with it, too.

No one has much to say that is complimentary about the Koreans or their country, James Cameron, who covered the Korean War, talked of the dust, which was "worse than any dust normally experienced by human kind; it combined the properties of emery-powder and poison gas." Clearly an ancestor of kimchi. He also spoke of the characteristic smell of the countryside, "the hand-fertilizing of the paddies with domestic ordure was of course by no means unique in the East, but it is a fact that here it reached an especial concentration of evidence." Fortunately, I did not see very much of this. James Kirkup, writing in *The Streets of Asia*, said: "The Koreans have been called 'The Irish of the East', but this is an insult to the Irish." And William Manchester opens his Korean passage in *American Caesar* with the description: "Korea hangs like a lumpy phallus between the sprawling thighs of Manchuria and the Sea of Japan", which is not a very kind thing to say about any country.

Certainly there is a disquieting air about the Koreans. Not exactly an underlying sadness, though this may well be the mainspring of their behaviour. I had travelled here after a short stay in Bangkok,



Who goes there? The security guard standing at the entrance to the main Olympic stadium will have a tendency to assume the answer 'foe'. Koreans, a much-invaded people, regard the world with some mistrust

and the contrast could not have been greater. The Thais, as well as being the most beautiful Asian race, have a modest, retiring air about them which is graciousness itself. Koreans, on the other hand, bump into you a lot. They have none of the oriental shyness of build; being bumped by a Korean means something like a shoulder charge from a Welsh valley second-row forward. They bark at you in a language which seems entirely composed of consonants. They bark at each other the same way. And all the while, the crowds of similar, flat, high-cheek-boned, dinner-plate faces regard you with no distinct expression, but black eyes which are sharp and not about to be fooled by anything. It

is a look often visible on the faces of Hungarians or Poles; peoples who have been invaded too often, and cannot lay claim to many victories in their past.

One local journalist, Nam Lee, sometime ping-pong correspondent of *The Seoul Daily Sports*, and now its literary correspondent, talked to me about *hahn*, which is "the knot" which lies in the heart of Koreans. Although Buddhism and Confucianism are the chief religions (and it is not uncommon to find the wife of a family practising Buddhism while her husband adheres to Confucian ethical codes), there are still elements of the old shamanism, which was Korea's original religion, surviving in the remoter regions. The knot is a kind of wound, the result of repressed yearnings and cultural deprivation, which can only be untied with great difficulty and may well be the force behind the current economic upsurge in Korea.

The Japanese effectively ruled the country from 1910 until 1945. Since the Korean War shortly afterwards, of course, it has been divided between the Communist empire to the north and the United States' one to the south. The US forces of occupation are certainly still highly visible, in their green camouflaged combat trucks, which stand out so well against the grey mountains of Korea. The area surrounding one of the main army bases in Seoul is littered with Country and Western night clubs, one is called the Grand O' Pory, with pictures of Dolly Parton in the window.

The Koreans still regard the Japanese with some mistrust, and the Japanese for their part seem to treat Korea like any other Third World country which is ripe for their expanding commercial em-

pire. Indeed, since Korea's own version of the "economic miracle" of the Seventies, Seoul has come to resemble some parts of Tokyo, as much as it can be said to resemble anywhere at all. The same post-modernist high-rise blocks, of no particular architectural distinction, rising from smaller, more crowded working areas. A similar feeling of cramped masses of hard-working people, who seem immune to that particularly occidental desire for individual personal expression. The same terrible rush hours. What it lacks is Tokyo's neon, which lights up that city in gaudy catenae of fire. Finding a restaurant in Seoul open after 10 at night is difficult.

The most distinctive feature of the city is that it is built among mountains. A Korean proverb about the country goes: "Over the mountains"; they certainly are interminable. Look down any vista in the city, or across a rare piece of open space, and there, in the near distance, will be a granite hill, of anything up to 2,000ft, usually of a regular conical shape, much like a child's drawing of a mountain. A car ride across Seoul will involve a stop at a toll gate in order to pass through a mountain tunnel; alternatively, there may be a vertiginous alternative route which is far more exciting, if wearing on the brakes. They are not an unpleasant feature. The only British equivalent I can think of would be Bath, although the hills of Seoul are within the city rather than surrounding it, and are more forbidding than Bath's curving greenery.

The Han is a mighty, swift, dark

brown river, as broad as the Hudson but probably less polluted. It has an impressive array of a dozen modern bridges, and riding across one from the centre of Seoul to the south bank affords a welcome amount of open sky. All along the south bank of the river, beside the new six-lane expressway to the Olympic stadium and village, are serried ranks of identical new 15-storey blocks of flats. There must be hundreds of these blocks, stretching in squads from horizon to horizon. The only possible way to distinguish one from another is by the large number painted in a 20ft circle on the end wall of each tower. It is a chilling sight. The only other place where I have seen anything so horrible was in the suburbs of Leningrad. But the Russian flats are for the poor. Apparently the Seoul flats are for their new middle class, and the upper stratum at that. The similar Olympic village apartments, all 5,500 of them, have already been sold off to be occupied once the athletes have left.

Traditional Korean houses (of which there are very few left) took a lot of looking after, and the traditional method upon marriage and the founding of a family home was to import the grandparents to look after the house. Presumably even Koreans have the traditional jokes about in-laws, but at least it gave shelter and a useful role to the elderly. With their new Western habits, young upwardly aspiring Seoulians have neither space nor desire for grandparents around the place. What happens to them I do not know. Korean social welfare is reportedly on a par with their independent labour union scheme: neither exists.

Shopping is the major pastime for the foreigner in Seoul. It'sewon (pronounced Ee-tie-won) is the main shopping street for for-

signers. It looks like Oxford Street after a collision between a street trader's stall and an Arthur Daley lorry. The tailors here will run you up a suit with the customary oriental speed, for only slightly more than one would cost in a high-street Burton's. Since I do not wish to resemble a Japanese businessman I did not buy one, although it has to be said that one tailor numbers king, princes and ambassadors among his clients, if the visiting cards on his wall are anything to go by. I did, however, buy a maroon eel-skin wallet, which is as cute as a tic. I am reliably informed that residual electricity in the eel-skin erases the vital bit of cash machine cards. Clearly, it is the Korean version of a neutron bomb: it destroys the

money while leaving the wallet intact.

If, like everyone else, I have seemed unkind about the face of Seoul, I should add that there were two people there who greeted me more hospitably than anyone else ever has on a foreign trip. And it is doubly unfair, coming from an Englishman. After all, they might have awarded the Olympics to Birmingham.

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Ways to the Olympics

The fastest way to Seoul from London is via Japan on one of the non-stop flights over the trans-Siberia route, reaching Tokyo in under 12 hours. This route is served by BCal/ British Airways and Japan Airlines. The final leg to Seoul (by JAL or Korean Airlines, KAL) takes two hours.

Direct flights, taking six hours longer, operate from Amsterdam (KLM), Paris (Air France/ KAL), Frankfurt (Lufthansa/ KAL) and Zurich (Swissair/ KAL). Alternatively, a round-the-world (RTW) ticket can be cheaper.

Between London and Seoul, the normal return first and business class fares are £4,140 and £2,472 respectively, with the economy class PEX (instant purchase) excursion costing £361. PEX fares require a minimum stay of 14 days in Seoul; stopovers are allowed.

Sportsweek Travel, 320 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9JH, (01-378 4515), is the official ticket agency for the Olympics.

1 The main Olympic stadium, built for the Asian Games of 1986. This asset encourages Koreans to talk of making up to \$90 million profits. Other arenas: 2 Gymnasium 3 Indoor swimming pool 4 Students' gymnasium 5 Baseball stadium

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Tel: 02522 586

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

TRAVEL NEWS

Refunds, not surcharges, on holidays are a real possibility by mid-summer, Britain's second-largest tour operator predicted this week.

Intasun's managing director Roger Heape said: "We believe that there may well be refunds from the airlines this summer on fuel. We are not giving a 'no surcharge' guarantee because that would deprive our customers of refunds."

● The first of next winter's ski holiday brochures are out with good deals for those prepared to book now. Bladen Lines (01-785 3131) has party booking and child price deals on bookings made before June 17. Ski Vacations (0533 539100) has already sold about 3,000 holidays.

● Seven of the 1,800 Britons who caught malaria on their travels last year were killed by the disease according to statistics from MASTA, the Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad.

Avoiding bites as well as taking anti-malarial drugs is now routinely advised for travellers visiting affected areas. The "No Bite Mosquito Killer", a small electrical gadget for vaporizing insect killing tablets, may prove a less fragile alternative to the traditional smouldering mosquito coil. There is a 12-volt model for yachtsmen and campers and mains models to suit most plug and voltage combinations worldwide. From Boots, airport shops and stores at about £6.95.

TRAVEL BOOKS

Getting on with it where other men only dream, Robin Neillands (a regular contributor to these pages) went *Walking Through France From the Channel to the Camargue* (Collins £10.95). His account of the journey is amusing and practical. The six week walk, mainly along France's long-distance footpaths, the *Grandes Randonnées*, is presented in segments which readers with less time to devote to walking will surely follow.

S.C.P.

A view from the grandstand

William Greaves takes the high road to the North Rim and enjoys the glories of the Grand Canyon far from the madding tourist crowd

Take any monumental freak of nature and you can bet your last traveller's cheque that the finest view will be from the very point at which a multitude of camera-clad itinerants, recently decanted from coach and car, is gathering.

To drive the 50-odd miles due south from Jacob Lake through the misleadingly pastoral amalgam of Douglas pines and lush green meadows of Northern Arizona, however, is to arrive in one breathtaking moment of unsurpassable majesty upon one of the best kept secrets of the whole American tourist adventure.

At the end of the road stands a single, isolated lodge. Park your car, walk through the lobby and out on to the terrace, and suddenly you are staring down into that precipitous kaleidoscope of mists and shadows that constitutes the Grand Canyon.

'It's one of the best kept secrets of the whole American tourist adventure'

There is nothing secret, of course, about the canyon itself. The gorge that carries the Colorado River through the Rocky Mountains and out into the blistering heat of the Nevada desert is visited, almost by obligation, by hundreds of thousands of sightseers every year.

But they are on the other side of the chasm, which, *mirabile dictu*, is the wrong side of the chasm. Why they are there, huddled together on the barren south rim within a township of hotels and lodges, is because they have been magnetically attracted by a network of air and road routes and a climate that makes access possible all year round.

Another explanation for why only a handful of Grand Canyon cognoscenti will direct the traveller's steps to the north rim is that its most convenient approach is a day's drive from Las Vegas — and most people who climb off a plane in that desert playground have



Breathtaking: a bird's eye view of the gorge that carries the Colorado River through the Rocky Mountains and out into the Nevada desert

little intention of using it as a launch pad to nature's masterpieces.

The two rims are 10 miles apart by crow's flight. The super-fit human may don back-pack, descend 5,000 vertical feet down the South Kaibab trail, cross the river by single-file bridge through a summer cauldron of 120°F, climb 6,000 feet and arrive at the North Kaibab trailhead 20 miles and three or four days later. By car the

two rims are a discouraging 215 miles apart.

As less than seven per cent of all Grand Canyon voyeurs ever venture beneath the edge, let alone traverse one of the most demanding safaris in the western world, it is small wonder that few have the personal experience to compare one location with the other.

Four who do are the woman lawyer from Denver, Colorado, and her three male companions,

who I met coming towards me at Roaring Springs, five walking miles and 3,500 feet beneath the North Rim. I was well ready to turn about and the handicap of the weight on their backs and the distance they had covered from Cottonwood Camp at daybreak (not to mention their previous days on the hoof) enabled me to keep pace as we traipsed the steep zig-zag path past the ever-changing rock structures, fauna (including a close encounter

with a spotted skunk) and flora to the top.

They were glad enough of the sight of my car at the trailhead and the offer of a lift to the lodge to insist on buying me a drink on the terrace. Together we watched as the sunset cast the patchwork of ridges far beneath us into smouldering crimson.

"Jesus!" exclaimed one of them, a delighted blasphemy which the Almighty must have heard from

this spot on countless earlier occasions. "Do all those guys over the other side realize what they're missing?"

It is that extra thousand feet on the North Rim — it is closed by snow, or the likelihood of it, between October and May — which makes the difference. While the view from the south is abruptly halted by the cliff face opposite, the one in the opposite direction takes in the San Francisco Peaks, silhouetted on the horizon 70 miles beyond. And whereas Grand Canyon Village is set in an almost lunar landscape on the edge of Arizona's Painted Desert, the North Rim is above tree level, lending it an infinitely more varied and picturesque environment.

The northern visitor has another advantage too. Instead of an interesting but seemingly interminable approach from Flagstaff, Arizona, through the Painted Desert, the drive to North Rim out of Las Vegas can take in the two Utah national parks of Zion and Bryce Canyon — the one spectacularly beautiful and the other a natural amphitheatre almost as awe-inspiring as Arizona's Grand Canyon itself.

'Jesus! Do all those guys over the other side realize what they're missing?'

By arrangement with the American National Parks, the same company that operates the Grand Canyon lodge has similar lodges at Zion and Bryce. All three blend tastefully with their surroundings; their log cabin bedrooms are spacious and comfortable, and the food is appetizing.

However, Zion and Bryce come with a word of warning. With a neatness of moral interpretation — I hesitate to use the word hypocrisy — Utah permits the charging of a handsome corkage fee to open the bottle of wine you have brought with you, while forbidding the sale on the premises of anything more alcoholically risqué than a bottle of local beer. Gourmets may travel in splendour — but must pack with care.

TRAVEL NOTES

Any flight to Las Vegas (preferably offering a fly-drive facility) sets you down within a day's drive of the North Rim, 8½ hours non-stop via St George and Jacob's Lake.

Zion National Park, however, remains an ideal first-night destination, easily attainable by road between lunchtime and dinner, and a further night at Bryce Canyon is well worth while. Overnight or longer-stay lodge bookings should be made well in advance to TW Services Inc, PO Box 400, Cedar City, Utah 84720 (801-586 7888). Expect to pay about \$30 a night for a small log cabin for two.

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GARDENING

Bouquets of Barbican beauty

Gardening in the Barbican poses both aesthetic and physical problems. It is difficult to find a style for the inclement environment of dark towers and windy walkways.

The massive concrete buildings do not age gracefully and the standard Barbican window boxes, also concrete, are unsympathetic to plants. Nevertheless, the Barbican Horticultural Society, formed in 1980, has a busy membership which has influenced not only the private balconies and windowsills but public spaces, where tubs are gardened by the residents.

The tubs have recently been joined by "traffic island" beds installed by the Barbican Corporation and together they hugely improve the gaunt walkways and courts. What works most effectively is clever, colourful semi-formal bedding, forget-me-nots, tulips and euphorbias, pale primrose wall flowers and broom. Set in wide clumps, rather than lines, the plants mediate between the geometry of the architecture and people.

The Barbican Spring Competition was held yesterday, and edging my way around the balcony gardens and window boxes, I realized that gardening (like living) in these conditions is a high density exercise. It also calls for boldness: brightly coloured tulips and wall flowers, garish in a more natural situation, challenge the concrete and provide bright flags of colour on the grey towers.

In the polluted and dusty atmosphere of the City of London, the scent of flowers is almost more important than colour. The window box winner, Mrs Amy Morgan, had wallflowers, acorned geraniums and honeysuckle. Nearly all the other competitors also had a selection of strongly fragrant plants: rosemary, lavender, hyssop, and even the richly scented pheasant's-eye narcissus.

In shady conditions, the gardeners have made good use of variegated plants. Euonymus, the small-leaved cream-flecked ivies and even the unusual New Zealand plant *Griselinia littoralis Variegata*. When you only have an area about four feet long, nine inches wide and 18 inches deep, open to the force of chilly, high winds, pecked over by sparrows and pigeons, and even used by the Barbican Mallards to nest in, it is an achievement to grow anything at all.

Francesca Greenoak

CLARE ROBERTS

Don't spend this year weeding!

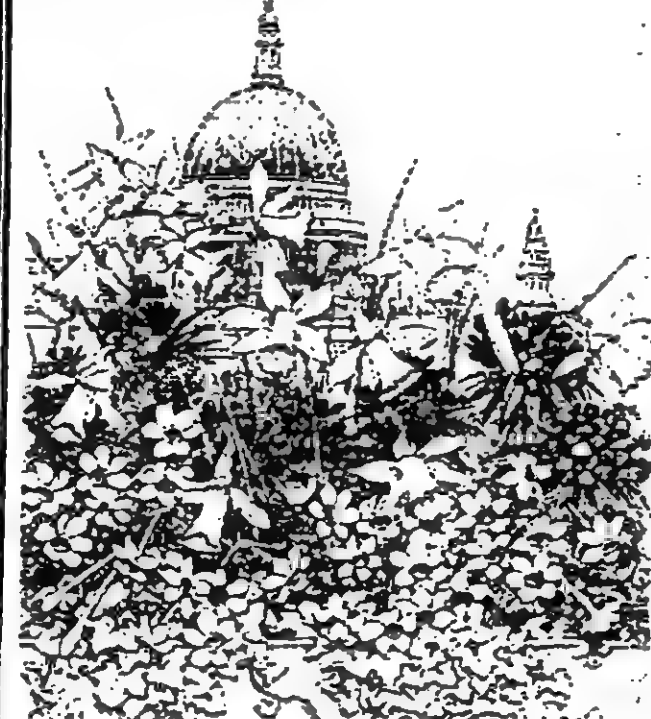
Or next year, or the year after that, or the year after that, or the year after that... How?

Simple. Use Plantex.

Stops weeds as quickly as rolling out a carpet.

Like me, you're probably fed up with spending half your leisure time weeding the garden. My Garden Centre suggested Plantex, as it prevents weed growth. There are no sickly smells like the weedkillers I have used before. It's safe and light and easy to use. You simply roll it out along the soil, cut an X with kitchen scissors and slip it over existing plants or plant in new ones. Air, water and valuable nutrients are able to pass through, producing healthy plants, whilst weed growth is suppressed. Since using Plantex I can now sit back and enjoy my leisure time.

Send for free sample pack to: Dept T13-5 FREEPOST Kettering Northants NN16 5BR. Sole UK distributors - Mils-It Ltd. *PLANTEX is a Du Pont trademark. Kelco, U.S.A. Plantex.



Barbican window box looking out on St Paul's in the City

NEWLINES

It is garden festival time in Glasgow, beginning April 28 on an exciting dockside site flanking the south bank of the Clyde.

Arranged into somewhat inscrutable themes, the garden exhibits include high-tech demonstration plots, heritage gardens, the rogues' plant-mans' and plantbustlers' gardens, as well as "third world initiatives", water displays and "gardens of peace".

Day tickets for the festival £5, children £2.50 (£4 concessionary rate). May be bought at the gate or ordered in advance by telephone 041 429 8855 (or Freephone Garden Festival, in Scotland), credit cards accepted.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Always handle seedlings by their leaves (not the delicate stems) when pricking out.
- Plant maincrop potatoes this week.
- Make sure greenhouse and indoor plants have adequate water and ventilation.
- Cut holly, box and yew, using secateurs rather than shears.
- Sow courgettes, outdoor cucumbers, French beans and pumpkins in small pots inside or in warm soil under cloches.

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Sweepers you can't beat

Continued on next page

هكزامن الأصيل

OUT AND ABOUT

هكزامن الأصيل

A village in memoriam

A memorial chapel quite unlike any other building in England, an extraordinary art gallery, and a uniquely interesting Norman church — the village of Compton in Surrey has all of these, and more. More than a village, it is a museum, a place where the past is preserved in a way that is both beautiful and inspiring.

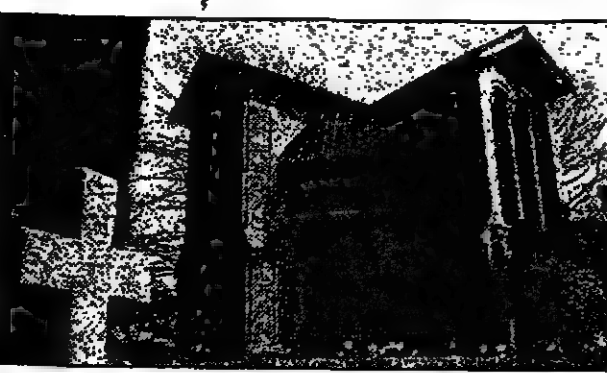
The village is pretty and well preserved, and off its long single street the parish church nestles among trees. It is a low, time-weathered building, all brilliant white inside. Norman arcades, Jacobean woodwork, and a two-storyed sanctuary in the chancel complete with a guard rail of Norman wood.

Up the road is the hillside churchyard, the setting for the Watts Chapel, one of the most outlandish buildings I have ever seen. The Watts in question is the Victorian artist, George Frederic Watts, OM, RA, who spent his latter years in Compton, and whose paintings are in the Watts Gallery nearby.

The chapel was built to his memory by his widow, a woman of formidable dedication, who designed the whole thing herself, along with the nearby Cloister, organized the villagers into a Potters Art Guild, found suitable clays on the estate, and even modelled much of the decoration. From the outside her chapel looks incongruously Italianate, all red roof tiles, red brick and terracotta. But inside is an extravaganza born of art nouveau crossed with the worst excesses of the Celtic Revival.

Every inch of every surface is encrusted with gesso, lavishly decorated with long trails of stylized foliage, elongated figures, pictorial vignettes and other-worldly faces, of which some look downward in sympathy while others look upward in hope. The effect, enhanced by an oppressively dull 'colour' scheme, is to

Nigel Andrew visits Compton, shrine to a Victorian painter, George Watts



Widow's work: The Watts chapel, built by the painter's wife

overwhelm rather than enlighten. The one still point in the decorative riot is a small Watts painting over the altar, "The All-Rewarding". There are a great many more such titles — "Love and Death", "The Spirit of Christianity", "Love Stealing the Boat of Humanity" — in the Watts Gallery itself. This unpretentious rough-cast building was also built by the widow Watts. The rooms are airy and well lit, the largest of them restored to its splendid original colours of purple and green, silver and dull gold.

However, Watts in bulk is certainly impressive; there are many unexpected pleasures to be found, particularly among the earlier works. Among the paintings, and in odd recesses, nestle the relics: Watts's Order of Merit, framed along with his palette and brushes; a wonderfully ascetic death mask, his skull-cap and cans of his hands, and some fine photographs.

The remarkable Sculpture Gallery is being restored, but you may be able to have a look inside. Here, amid a surreal

jumble of plaster-cast arms and legs and hands and feet, stand the colossal models for Watts's statue of Tennessee (and his dog), and for his famous "Physical Energy", a version of which is in Kensington Gardens.

It was while working on this that he caught the cold that developed into pneumonia and killed him, a very grand old man of English art. He may no longer seem a great artist now, but in Compton he has a memorial which makes him unique among Victorian painters.

The Watts Gallery, Compton, near Guildford, is open daily, except Thursdays, 2-5pm; also 11am-1pm Wed and Sat. Admission free. No dogs.



In loving memory: sculpture from the Watts gallery (below)



Aim a boot at the tumbling falls



The best route up, strikes just west of north at about 45 degrees to the contours to the rim of Coire an Tuill Bhain, then by its eponymous Sgurr to the summit.

This is the safest descent, alternatives being via Coire na Slegach or (trickier) Sgurr Dubh. The Tuill Bhain ascent is preferred for the sudden revelation of the northward view toward An Teallach.

This description is all too short for the climb it describes: it also dispenses with warnings which must be plain to anyone. The weather here is real, as are the fatalities.

Iain Liddell

TORRIDON
Slack
north west Scotland
Distance: 15 miles

Slack. It sounds like a good 10-year-old malt and indeed, has a similar subtlety. The face it presents across Loch Maree invites analogy with supermarket brands, all fire and no violence, but closer inspection confirms its left-lieutenancy.

The mechanics of the walk need few words. It is longish, and climbs over 3,000 feet. From Kinlochewe, you take the path along the far side of the river, turn up Gleann Binnadall until the waterfalls tumble at your left boot, and it is uphill to the top. But, as George Borrow might have said: Easy to say "Yonder Slack", But difficult to reach by hand.

The sylvan path to Loch Maree prepares the mind for mountain, and in itself is a

first-rate six-mile stroll, and the glen path (nine miles round there and back from Kinlochewe) is scarcely more difficult.

Much ado about Will

SHAKESPEARE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS: Annual event attended by many visitors from abroad, including ambassadors and high commissioners from all over the world. Day starts with children's folk dancing in Banford Gardens from 9.45am. The Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers in Bridge Street from 10am. A procession of distinguished guests through the town from 11am, finishes at Shakespeare's grave for wreath laying ceremony at approximately 11.45am. Evening performance of *Much Ado About Nothing* at the theatre. Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. Further information, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (0789 204016). Today, 9.45am onwards, free. Tickets for evening performance, if available, from the theatre box office (0789 295623).

OUTINGS

SE1 (01-261 1891 for further information). Tomorrow 1am-4.30pm, admission 50p.

BOATYARD NATIONAL OPEN DAYS: 52 boat yards on British waterways will be open tomorrow — most from 10am to 5pm — providing visitors with an opportunity to inspect boats and, at some, take short trips. To find out the nearest open boatyard taking part in the scheme, telephone Boatline (0932 845890).

ESSEX GARDEN OPEN DAY: Lovely gardens surrounding 17th century house with many

spring flowers and a chain of lakes. The Manor House, Little Easton, near Dunmow, Essex. Tomorrow 2-8pm, admission Adult £1, Child 50p. Proceeds to charity.

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND GRAND PLANT SALE: All types of house and garden plants at bargain prices, plus used book and home produce stalls. Proceeds to Wildlife Fund. Lightfoot Hall, Kings College, Mansfield Road, London SW3. Today 10am-5pm.

Judy Froshang

Paris trip winners

In our competition featuring general knowledge questions about Paris, the winners, who will each have a weekend for two in the French capital and a copy of *The Times Bartholomew Guide to Paris*, are Mrs C. Coombe of Worthing and Mr Alan McCook of Gloucester.

Runners-up, who will each receive a copy of the guide, are: Mr A.J. Craine of Harpenden; Mr J.F. Beasly of Dorset; Mr H.T. Bolis of Birmingham; Mr K.J. Richards of York; Mr D. Townsend of London SE4; Mrs M. Jones of Leeds; Ms Susan Scorer of Gerrards

Cross: Miss E. Shaw of Bath; Mrs Michelle Field of London SW7; and Mr Peter Corbett of Essex.

The answers:
1. St Denis
2. The square spire in front of Notre Dame Cathedral
3. Marie de Medicis
4. Champs de Mars
5. The Church of Dome at Les Invalides
6. Place de la Concorde
7. The Pont Neuf
8. The Georges Pompidou Centre

All questions and answers were taken from *The Times Bartholomew Guide to Paris*.

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Trial by reporter

TELEVISION

We gentle persons of the Press are more ready, it seems, than our television counterparts to name the guilty men. The second programme in the BBC2 series *Secret Services* followed a *Sunday Mirror* investigative journalist, Steve Bailey, as he tracked down a dastardly bomber of a Wimbledon umpire, who had been selling centre court tickets at a substantial profit.

Although the paper printed the story last year, we were not given his name during the programme. We heard his bugger bluster as he was tenderly led into the multi-media trap but when he came in front of the candid television camera his face instantly became an indecipherable mosaic of computer graphics.

Legal reasons may have necessitated this faceless, if arty, anonymity, but there was also aesthetic and moral justification for it. Though the documentary boasted a lyrical sax sound-track and close-ups of whirly fans and hidden microphones worthy of a thriller about some major heist, it exemplified the comic persistence of pathetically petty corruption in British public life.

Our Mr X was an umpire of 25 years' standing, a Conservative councillor and the chairman of a health authority, who risked his whole well-rewarded career for a quick £2,000. He may have broken Wimbledon's rules, but not, I think, the laws of the land, and Bailey had "encouraged" a tout to name the guilty umpire rather than be the subject himself of a *Mirror* article. When the umpire learnt his game was up, he lamely offered a Thatcherite defence of market forces.

If it is difficult to be rumpled in good taste, it is impossible, according to Andy Warhol's former lawyer-business manager, Fred Hughes, to die in it. Hughes was delightedly appearing on BBC2 in *Review's* intriguing film about Warhol's vast collection of artefacts, prior to the mammoth sale of them in New York. Commensurate mused and gloated over the values of jewels and junk but the lawyer's pearls stole the show.

Andrew Hislop

The Bolshoi of the Big Top

Richard Morrison
on the Moscow
State Circus,
which this week
begins a summer
tour of Britain

As a celebration of human physique, co-ordination and nerve, the £6 million show which arrives in Britain this week probably has few equals. It is called the Moscow State Circus, but in fact it has been assembled by British impresarios of the ambitious Entertainment Corporation, who journeyed round the Soviet Union, selecting a dozen of the best acts from the enormous resources of *Soyuz Goscirk*, Union of Soviet Circuses.

Any resemblance between this Olympian display and the tacky parades of butter-fingered jugglers and faked tightrope acts which sometimes pass for circuses on waste-ground outside British towns is liable to be exceedingly slight (even though Britain invented the modern circus about 200 years ago, when an entrepreneurial Light Dragoon discovered there was money to be made from standing on a galloping horse).

The Russians, by contrast, take circus very seriously indeed. There are 70 permanent circuses in the Soviet Union: purpose-built (usually ring-shaped) theatres, lofty enough to contain the highest high-wires. *Soyuz Goscirk* employs around 15,000 performers and back-up staff. Many performers will have attended a specialist circus school from the age of 11, training every bit as rigorously as if their ambitions lay with the Bolshoi Ballet, the Tchaikovsky Piano Competition or the Olympic gymnastics squad. Then they embark on a nomadic existence, performing in perhaps six Soviet cities each year, but one which (unlike in British circuses) is financially secure and has a pension at the end.

Yet the overriding impression



Horsemanship: Annayev, of the Cossack Riding Troupe, shows off his skill. It is one of the few animal acts at the Moscow State Circus.

when they perform is not one of clockwork precision, but of breathtaking pace, improvisational exuberance and a high risk element. That was evident even in the dreary environment of Ryazan, a grey town 150 miles outside Moscow where the elite troupe earmarked for British consumption gathered to put the show together last month.

What is in that show? Most spectacularly, a thrilling high-wire act. Druzhin is a veteran (about 40) who walks the wire without safety net or harness. On his head he balances a pole, and on top of that his wife perches on one pointed foot. That is the easy bit. Then they begin to ascend a steeply sloping wire into the roof. The wire begins to shake, the

pair slip back time and again, but eventually reach the top. "The presence of Western journalists made the wire wet," explains Druzhin — an inscrutable remark, until one realizes that the performers were drenched in the perspiration of fear and determination.

Having walked 10,000 kilometres on the wire, Druzhin has long overcome the horror of falling which gave him "nightmares for six months" when he first went into the business. Asked whether the business had changed much in 20 years, he replied drily that he personally welcomed the current Soviet crackdown on alcohol. "Vodka does affect your sense of balance."

The circus is stuffed with exceptional gymnasts: the Garamovs, a Leningrad family who perform on trapeze with classical precision; the Shatins, who do the same sort of thing for laughs; and the Kaminskys, including a girl who does improbable back-somersaults on a three-inch-wide bendy-bar.

There are jugglers and trampolinists, too, and the unclassifiable Moscow Builders, whose "perch" routine, using eight men and two women, combines athleticism with some sly satirical digs at *perestroika*.

Then there are the novelties. It would, of course, be a monstrous slur on the Russian people to describe these acts as the Soviet Union's answer to Paul Raymond,

but they do always seem to involve economically-clad maidens doing interesting things with their torsos. The "snake girl of Lvov" walks on her hands while her legs are contorted backwards round her neck. Try it sometime.

Because of Britain's stringent quarantine regulations — and perhaps out of deference to our strong lobby against performing animals — the Russians are leaving their weirder animal acts at home. Those who desperately want to see skating bears playing ice hockey or chickens dancing *Swan Lake* must visit Moscow.

But there are horses, ridden with manic unconcern for life. The act looks ferociously fast and insanely dangerous. But Annayev, leader of these "Cossack Riders"

Crown: Anatoly Marchevsky, who has studied Benny Hill

(his father, inconspicuously, was Agriculture Minister in Turkmenistan and his brother plays violin in the Ashkhabad Philharmonic), rejects accusations of cruelty in his training methods, with a little speech straight out of medieval Persia. "I treat horses like women. Some respond to caresses, some to a strong hand, but never cruelty. And I always have a carrot in my pocket."

The star of this Big Top, however, is the clown Anatoly Marchevsky, widely regarded as the apparent "Oleg Popov" of the circus, a young, fanatical perfectionist, not especially poised for modesty or a sense of humour outside the ring, and very prickly about comparisons between himself and the legendary Popov. Yet to watch his skit on *Ohella* reduce crowds of Russian children to hysterical giggles is to see a great circus clown in his prime.

He is unlikely to do that particular routine in Britain; perhaps judging that detailed allusions to Shakespeare would be quite beyond the average British audience. But we will see his delightful reworking of the Chaplin "park statue" sketch. What, incidentally, does he know of current British humour? "I have seen all of Benny Hill on video," he replies, alarmingly.

The Moscow State Circus opens in Battersea Park, London, next Saturday before visiting Norwich, Northampton, Birmingham, Nottingham, York, Glasgow, Newcastle, Manchester, Cardiff, Bristol and Bournemouth.

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L'elisir d'amore
La Scala, Milan

Why does La Scala's new *Elisir d'amore* attract almost exclusively on Adina? The answer is threefold: the part is sung by Marie McLaughlin, the director is a woman, and Pavarotti is ill.

André Ruth Shammah's production presents the bulk of the opera as Nemorino's dream, reducing him to a passive onlooker as Adina embarks on her voyage of emotional self-discovery. McLaughlin takes Adina very seriously, at times turning her into a proto-Violetta — her light-hearted attempts to dismiss Nemorino become increasingly tinged with doubt and anxiety in the face of his insistent sincerity. Her consummate acting and richly expressive singing are such that the music bears the unaccustomed weight with little strain, although the first night did not find her in best voice.

Pavarotti's replacement was the young Vincenzo La Scala, who has a modest, musically-deployed voice with a fine legato. However, his phrasing is not yet sufficiently imaginative to compensate for an essential lack of tonal variety.

Apart from the emphasis on Adina and the novelty of the dream production is almost non-existent; the only sets are painted backdrops that tell the time of day.

The first-night Scala audience was on its worst behaviour, which means very silly indeed. By the end of the evening — liberally punctuated by audience participation — everyone except the tenor was deemed to have sinned. The conductor failed to appear, but the rest of the company was greeted with whistles, jeers, and catcalls.

Miss McLaughlin should not be discouraged by her Scala debut — Mirella Freni once had to heckle the hecklers from the stage before she could continue with an aria.

Nigel Jamieson

Very witty, dear boy

THEATRE

Easy Virtue
Garrick

The most likely explanation for the long neglect of this early Coward play is its large cast of 19, eight of whom appear only in the dance scene of the last act to gossip on the sidelines (where Coward, always the craftsman, gives each of them something useful to say) and to form an audience for the splendidly grand *dénouement*.

Somehow the cast managed to cram on to the King's Head stage (where this production by Tim Luscumbe was warmly praised by Irving Wardle) but the environment is certainly classier at the Garrick.

The setting is the paneled hall of Colonel Whittaker's home in Surrey. Nobody in real life now or ever sits on sofas in their hall to take afternoon tea, but it is for drawing-room comedy (never called hall comedy) the equivalent of farce's room of many doors.

On Bruce Snyder's set are three ground-level doors and a soaring staircase, up which vindictive county females exit muttering and down which Larita, the woman with the past, makes her last entrance, wearing at least 15 necklaces, and half a dozen glittering bracelets on each forearm.

Coward uses the story of a woman in her thirties, just married to a handsome youth (John Michie) 10 years her junior, and meeting his family for the first time, to score points off hard hearts and blinkered complacency.

It is the women he has it in for. Larita's endlessly critical mother-in-law (Zena Walker) and the two snug daughters. "Don't give way, mother" bleats the elder one, a galumphing girl (Miranda Kings-



Stylish: John Michie and Jane How in Noel Coward's *Easy Virtue*

key, first class) with a smile like the flash of light on an axe-head.

When the younger daughter (Lois Harvey) uncovers a juicy scandal in Larita's past, the velvet gloves are off and the insults begin. Coward gives all the women joyful actable lines but it is Larita's that are cleverer and funnier; and, armed with irony and repartee, she is honourable at heart.

The stylish playing Jane How gives the role never obscures the character's emotional warmth. Whether she is exchanging witty chat-chit with a fellow of her own sort (Iain Mitchell), a likeable man-about-town and owner of quite a modest cigarette holder, or seeing eye-to-eye with Ronnie

Stevens' decent Colonel, Miss How's steady gaze and tone of voice give flesh and blood to one of the first human women Coward created.

The actress who played the part in 1926 apparently could not resist going over the top in her big scenes, taking the play back into the melodramatic "problem play" style Coward was escaping from. Miss How pitches it right, and when she smashes a plaster statuette her comment is reflective, not enraged.

Incredibly King George V and Queen Mary went to the first production. Their grandchildren might enjoy the revival.

Jeremy Kingston

Man or mouse?

Treats
Watermans

Christopher Hampton's comedy was given a rough ride when it first appeared at the Royal Court in 1976. Spectators (like me) who may then have missed the point are now invited to bracket it with *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* as parallel study of "sexual ascendancy" written as a mid-century counterpart to *A Doll's House*.

Mr Hampton set out with the idea that the Noras of real life were no better off than they had been in the 1870s, and "determined to write a play in which the heroine would slam the door and come back. The result, as I signally failed to recognize 12 years ago, is an early document of male feminism; which, like subsequent examples of that self-torturing genre, manages to vilify every man in sight without achieving any feminine insight.

The action of the piece is livened in reverse. At the beginning, Ann has got rid of her violently dominating lover (Dave), and installed the office bore (Patrick) in his place. Dave, a war reporter, allegedly camping out in the Savoy Hotel, comes storming back and renews the macho treatment to such effect that she finds she cannot live without him. You are

invited to conclude that women are irresistibly drawn to virile bullies who knock them about.

Andrew Powrie's production (including two members of the *Liaisons* cast) includes some minor textual revisions and three performances that nail the characters even more firmly into stereotypes: Andrew Rattenbury's Dave as a figure of unrelieved menace; and Simon Mattacks's Patrick as an unresisting victim of embarrassment and panic. Of the three, Harriet Grasby as the stone-walling Ann, shows the most emotional variety.

Irving Wardle

Hilary Finch

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VINCENT VAN GOGH'S portrait of Adeline Ravoux, painted in June 1890 a month before his death, will be on view at Christie's, King Street this Sunday (2 p.m. - 5 p.m.), Monday and Tuesday (9 a.m. - 4.45 p.m.).

Adeline Ravoux, who was thirteen at the time, was the daughter of the innkeeper at the Auberge where he was staying in Auvers. That same month Van Gogh wrote to his brother Theo "I should like to paint portraits which would appear after a century to the people living then as apparitions."

Adeline Ravoux died in 1965 and was undoubtedly the last living soul to have vivid recollections of the artist.

The painting will be auctioned at Christie's, New York on Wednesday, May 11th. For further information please contact James Roundell at the address below.



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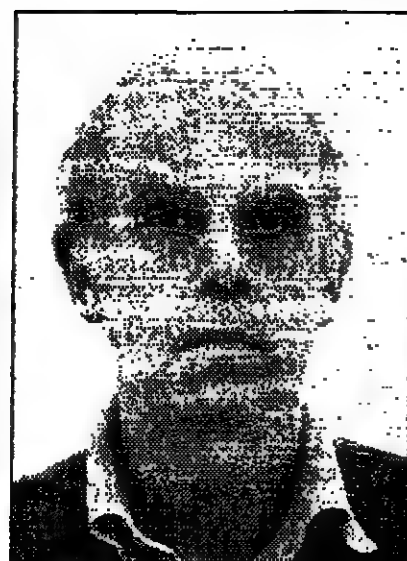
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مكتبة الأصيل



THEATRE

FLO'S SHOW: Florenz Ziegfeld Jr (1867-1932), the American showman and theatrical producer whose Broadway follies made him a byword of a new musical show, Ziegfeld, now previewing. Harold Fielding has engaged Joe Layton as director and choreographer. Len Cariou as Mr. Z. and Ned Sherrin and Alistair Beaton to provide the book. Theoni V. Aldredge's costumes have been consistently stopping the show at previews. London Palladium (01-437 7373). Opens Tuesday.



GALLERIES

SOFT OPTION: Claes Oldenburg is the archetypal pop artist. He is famous for foam-filled cloth sculptures such as giant typewriters, ash-trays and toilets, and his celebrated collage image of Piccadilly Circus replaces Eros with a cluster of ICBM lipsticks. An exhibition, the first in this country since his retrospective at the Tate Gallery 17 years ago, is being held in Leeds, featuring all aspects of his work. "A Bottle of Notes" and "Some Voyages" is at Leeds City Art Gallery (0532-462451). From Wed.



OPERA

WIDE RANGING: Anne Howells has tackled most of the mezzo-soprano repertory, from Mozart to contemporary opera, since her Covent Garden debut just over 20 years ago. On Friday she sings Thea, the wife of a wealthy engineer, in Nicholas Hytner's new production of *The Knot Garden*, by Sir Michael Tippett. Thereafter it is back to Mozart and, rather more surprisingly, Despinas in *Così fan tutte* in new productions both in the Royal Opera House and in Los Angeles. Royal Opera House. (01-240 1066).



CONCERTS

WELCOME GUEST: Bernard Haitink relinquishes his usual operatic concerns tomorrow evening to renew his link with the London Philharmonic, of which he became a guest conductor in 1964 and Principal Conductor from 1967 to 1979. Operetta will in fact be represented by the overture to Johann Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus*, but the main item is Symphony No 1 by Mahler, whose music was originally one of the chief bases of Haitink's repertoire. Royal Festival Hall (01-826 3191). 7.30pm.



BOOKS

SOLDIER BLUES: Kurt Vonnegut's particular brand of deadly serious flip humour is once again deployed in his latest novel, *Bluebeard* (Jonathan Cape, £10.95), published next week. Rabo Karabekian is a one-eyed, old, Armenian soldier, a footnote in art history as a pioneer and collector of abstract Expressionist art, who is trying to write his autobiography. But the Widow Berman, a nosy, manipulative author of novels about abortion, is moving in, threatening to bring new life to him. "She scares the pants off me," he says.



ROCK

DAY'S DEBUT: Morris Day, the sassy soul-funk singer who played Prince's arch-rival in *Purple Rain*, makes his English stage debut tonight. Although born in Springfield, Illinois, and now resident in Los Angeles, Day won renown as a key figure in the influential network of Minneapolis musicians, notably as front man of the Time, a platinum-selling group which included the celebrated production team of Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis. Tonight and tomorrow, Hammersmith Odeon, London W6 (01-748 4081).

THEATRE LONDON

ALPHA BETA: George Costigan and Gillian Brown in Ted Whitehead's exhortatory study of an impossible marriage. Man in the Moon, 352 Kings Road, London SW3 (01-851 2876). Previews from Tues. Opens May 5.

CELEBRATIONS: Gayle Hunnicutt hosts an afternoon of prize-winning plays written and performed by children; 2.30pm. Sylvester McCoy hosts a fund-raising auction. Lunch 1.30pm. Unicorn Theatre, The Arts, Great Newport Street, London W6 (01-836 3334). Sun.

CHILDREN'S ROYAL VARIETY PERFORMANCE: Princess Margaret attends an NSPCC charity show featuring Ken Dodd, Norman Wisdom, Michael Barrymore, The Muppets, Vienna Boys' Choir, and many more. Victoria Palace (01-242 1828 for tickets). Sun, 7pm.

THE WINTER'S TALE: Eileen Atkins, Sally Dexter, Shirley Henderson, Tim Pigott-Smith, Ken Stott, directed by Peter Hall. Cottesloe (01-828 2252). Previews from Thurs. Opens May 18. In repertory.

OUT OF TOWN

BEASTS: The Lions of Cass McGuire: Brian Friel play about a woman returning to Ireland after 50 years in the United States. Lyric Players (0232 381081). Opens Wed.

CARDIFF: A Blow to Bute Street: An elderly local jazz musician relives his youth. Sherman (0222 30451). Opens Tues.

PETERBOROUGH: Russell of the Times: James Hayes's one-man show about the 19th century war correspondent. Start of a tour. Epsom College, Epsom Surrey (tickets not generally available). Mon, 7.30pm. St. Paul's Theatre, West Street, Epsom, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (0832 73930). Wed, 7.45pm. Riverside Studios, London W6 (01-748 3354). May 13, 14.

EXETER: Simplicity: Premiere of a newly discovered early 18th century comedy, written by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. Northcott (0392 54555). Opens Tues.

GUILDFORD: Suffragette: Carbohydrate Millam Touring Company in Dennis Potter's one play (so far) written for the stage. Mill Studio, Yvonne Arnaud (0483 60191). Tues and Wed. Moves to Wilton Theatre, Bracknell, Berkshire (0344 484123). Thurs to Apr 30.

STRAFFORD-UPON-AVON: Macbeth: Miles Anderson as Macbeth, Duncan Bell as Malcolm, in a re-cast revival of the 1986 Adrian Noble production. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0788 295623). Previews from Thurs. Opens May 4. In repertory.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: This is the week of the Royal Opera Midland Bank Proms: 350 tickets at £4, one per applicant, on sale one hour before curtain up. Queue early. Sian Edwards conducts new Nicholas Hytner production of Tippett's *The Knot Garden*, opening on Fri at 8pm. Last performances on Tues and next Sat of Sir Peter Hall's new *Salome*. On Mon and Thurs, at 7.30pm, further performances of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Revival of *Così fan tutte*, this time with Felicity Lott and Della Jones, opens on Wed at 7pm (also on Fri). Nicholas Hytner's *Magic Flute* continues its run on Tues and

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

CHERUBIMICAL

(b) One of 227 synonyms for the condition of being drunk, including *nimptopical*, listed by Benjamin Franklin.

SANEMACOGNA

(a) Italian-American euphemism for the already euphemistic *son-of-a-gun*.

INSOLATE

(c) To expose plants (or bodies) to the sun from the Latin *in* and *sol* the sun.

INFRACANINOPHILE

(c) A champion of the underdog: literal dog Latin translation: coined by Christopher Morley in his preface to *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*.

RADIO

Thurs at 7pm; and a welcome revival of *The Makropoulos Case* tonight and next Sat at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martins Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

SCOTTISH OPERA: Welcome and strongly cast revival of Britten's *Death in Venice* tonight and Thurs at 7.15pm, with a matinee on Sat April 30. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-331 1234).

HIS MASTERS VOICE



● The story of the famous HMV trademark (above), featuring Nipper the dog, is told by Robin Ray in *Revolutions in Sound*, a six-part series celebrating the centenary of the gramophone. The first gramophone was demonstrated by its German-born inventor, Emile Berliner, in Philadelphia, on May 16 1888. The first records measured 5 inches across, the same dimensions as today's compact disc. Radio 4, tomorrow, 3.30-4pm.

SOMETHING TO BE SPARED: Ronald Pickup, Sarah Badel and Janet Maw lead Margaret Gillard's play about the writer Edward Thomas, and his friendship with Eleanor Farjeon. Radio 4, Mon, 8.15-9.45pm.

FREEWHEELING: Barry Norman hosts a new weekly guide to what's on and where, plus a codecracker competition. Radio 4, Fri, 6.30-7pm.

FILMS

THE PIED PIPER (15): Extraordinary Czech animated version of the fairy-tale, with puppets carved from walnuts. Everyman (01-435 1525), from Sun.

PROMISED LAND (15): Aimless young lives in Middle America. Cannon Tottenham Court Road (01-636 6148), from Fri.

RETRIBUTION (18): Dennis Lipscomb as a would-be suicide whose body is taken over by a murder victim bent on revenge. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). Cannon Shaftsbury Avenue (01-836 8279), from Fri.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Fiona Chadwick dances *Swan Lake* tonight; Maria Almeida takes the lead this afternoon and at Wednesday's Prom performance. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

NORTHERN BALLET: A Simple Man continues until Tuesday; then Coppelia Thursday to April 30. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8616).

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: Two more performances at Bradford today of an attractive programme including *Carmen* and *Etudes*; then Makarova's *Swan Lake* at Oxford, Monday to April 30. Alhambra, Bradford (0274-752000), Apollo, Oxford (0885-244554).

CONCERTS

FOSS'S RENAISSANCE: James Galway with the LSO under David Zinman in Lukas Foss's Renaissance Flute Concerto. The orchestra also contributes Richard Strauss's *Don Juan* and Dvorak's Symphony No 8. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC1 (01-628 8795). Today, 7.45pm.

STRAUSS GAMES: As part of the End Games series on the South Bank, Richard Strauss's Symphonic Fragments from *Die Liebe der Danae*, his Four Last Songs (Alison Hargan, soprano), *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, and *Rosenkavalier Suite* are heard from the Philharmonia Orchestra under Andrew Davis. Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

GALA MESSIAH: The Duchess of Gloucester hears Handel's *Messiah* by the Philharmonia Chorus, Orchestra and soloists. Festival Hall, Mon, 7.30pm.

GALA ECO: The Prince of Wales hears the ECHO under Jeffrey Tate play Rossini's *Barbieri di Siviglia* concerto, Mozart's Piano Concerto K 503, Haydn's Symphony No 99. Barbican Centre, Tues, 7.45pm.

GARRICK OHLSOHN: This distinguished pianist in Weber's Sonata No 1, Schubert's *Klavierstücke* D 948, Debussy's Images II, Samuel Barber's Sonata. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-935 2141). Wed, 7.30pm.

FROM BIRMINGHAM: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* Suite No 2, Weber's Six Pieces and Stravinsky's Apollo. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.15pm.

Brokers who went for broke



Wall Street warrior: Michael Douglas as Gordon Gekko, the man who believes that "Lunch is for winners"

global economy. True, of course, but this is not high drama as Cecil B. De Mille would understand it. And *Wall Street* has found problems getting general audiences interested in the minute details of insider deals and corporate raiding.

The threat of a Directors Guild strike in America caused the production to be hurried slightly. The script, written by Stone and Stanley Weiser, could certainly have benefited from a few trims. But the physical aspect of the film is beyond reproach.

Nothing was shot in the studio.

New York City supplied every location, from existing office buildings bursting at the seams with computers to the classic restaurants in Manhattan, where Gekko glides around slapping or stabbing a few backs.

Fox's rise to fame is crystallized in his purchase of an East Side penthouse, designed in a newly fashionable dilapidated style by a long blonde interior designer called Darien (Daryl Hannah) plays the part without much difficulty. The cameraman Robert Richardson (associated with Stone on *Platoon* and *Salvador*)

makes everything look convincingly hideous.

In America, *Wall Street* failed to achieve either the critical or commercial success of *Platoon*, but Oliver Stone has pressed on to direct another slice of American life in *Talk Radio*, a film based on Eric Bogosian's play about a late-night radio talk show host.

Geoff Brown

Wall Street (15) opens in London at the Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111), on Friday.

مكازم الأصيل

World TV: on facing

ROCK

WAS (NOT) WAS: Impeccable rock/soul crossover. Tomorrow, University of East Anglia, Norwich (0603 505401). Mon, Sheffield University (0742 724076). Tues, Ritz, Manchester (061-236 4355). Wed, Leeds University (0532 430071). Fri, Newcastle Polytechnic (081-232 6002).

THOMAS DOLBY: Return of the keyboard eccentric. Mon, Town & Country, London NW5 (01-267 3334).

WHITNEY HOUSTON: Multi-platinum Barbie doll soul. Wed and Thurs, NEC, Birmingham (021-780 4153).

THE PRIMITIVES: Coventry-bred Blondie re-run. Wed, Royal Court, Liverpool (051-709 4321). Thurs, International, Manchester (061 224 5050). Fri, Leeds Polytechnic (0532 430171).

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL: Public booking open for season: *Hay Fever*, *Major Barbara*, *The Royal Baccarat Scandal* and *Ring Round the Moon*. May-Oct. Festival Theatre Chichester (0243 781312).

ROCK

THE REVELS OF SIENA: All night performance of Italian Renaissance drama and music, with masquerade, mime, dance, travelling players and *commedia dell'arte*, from The Consort of Musicke, La Familia Carrara, York Waives, Parley of Instruments, and others. From 11.00pm until dawn, with Italian refreshments. June 16. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 3191), credit cards 01-828 8800, information 01-828 8002.

HENRY PEACH ROBINSON: Work of 19th-century artist/photographer, with drawings, watercolours, etchings, negatives and photos; including 1861 "The Lady of Shalott". Ends tomorrow. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 4141).

SUNDAYS AT FOUR: Last in present series of concerts featuring music and poetry by songwriters. Almaraz with Gabriel Wolk. Tomorrow at 4pm. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141).

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Hurd moves to block terror funds

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Tough new action against terrorist finance was promised yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary. The Government intends to legislate to "broaden and strengthen an attack on terrorist funding," he said.

The measures are expected to be introduced in a new Prevention of Terrorism Bill to come into force about next March. The Home Office is talking about powers to freeze terrorist assets but not yet to seize them, though that has not been ruled out.

Mr Hurd's announcement was made in the knowledge that international terrorist groups have used the United Kingdom for laundering their funds. He is aware of evidence that funds have been raised in Britain by groups to buy arms and explosives. The accumulation of cash could help terrorists to put down deep roots in society, Mr Hurd said.

Existing legislation penalizes the giving and receiving of funds for Northern Ireland terrorists. Now ministers are examining a proposal that the law should be widened to cover international terrorism. The Government is also considering methods to enforce disclosure of funds for terrorism held in British banks, so that a transfer could be blocked.

Mr Hurd, opening a conference on the rule of law and control of terrorism, saw a parallel between the finances of drug trafficking and terrorism. The Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 holds that it is an offence to knowingly launder funds of drug traffickers.

ers. New investigative powers were given to police.

"The Act, which is already proving its worth, enables the police to obtain a court order requiring the production of material relating to possible drug offences. It also provides powers to obtain the restraint, or freezing, of drug traffickers' assets and confiscation in the event of an offence being proved."

The Criminal Justice Bill, now before Parliament, extended similar powers of restraint and confiscation to a range of other serious offences. Those would include some of the major crimes associated with terrorism, including bank robberies and kidnappings.

In his report on the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Lord Colville of Culross recommended that the Government examine whether the provisions of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act could be applied more widely to the campaign against terrorist funding, Mr Hurd said.

There were important differences. "We are here talking not usually about funds generated by crime, but funds needed to commit crime. But we are taking Lord Colville's helpful suggestion most seriously," Mr Hurd said.

The recent annual report of Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the RUC, had drawn attention to the menace posed in Northern Ireland by extortion and racketeering. Mr Hurd said besides bank robberies and hostage-taking, terrorist groups there and elsewhere had taken over legitimate businesses to launder funds.

Pen behind the masque

Continued from page 1

Anne, daughter of Alice, Dowager Countess of Derby, to Lord Chandos in 1607. "My only ancestor of that period who was named Anne died in 1550", the present Lord Derby said at his home at Knowsley Hall yesterday.

But Professor Levi's dating of the manuscript was supported yesterday by Dr Jean Wilson of Cambridge, an authority on Elizabethan entertainments. The disputed poems are assumed to have been written in a masque at the home of the Countess of Derby's daughter, Lady Huntingdon, with each verse intended to accompany the presentation of a gift to each of the lady guests.

"The professor has the date wrong by only one year; this is

clearly part of masque written by John Marston and performed at Ashby-de-la-Zouch in 1606. The Countess of Derby had three daughters named Jane, Frances and Elizabeth, but in some contemporary sources Jane is referred to as Anne", Dr Wilson said.

"There is, however, no reason to believe that the poems are the work of anyone other than the 17th-century dramatist John Marston, who wrote the rest of this particular masque."

Mr Francis Carr, editor of the bulletin *Who Was Shakespeare?* said yesterday that he had studied the facsimile of the original and had concluded from the handwriting that the author was probably Francis Bacon.

European Airbus colours go on show



The new generation of the European Airbus, the A320, on a family outing over Europe yesterday. British Airways took delivery this month of the first of the 152-seat short-haul model, and that aircraft joined its fellows from Air France and Air Inter, the French internal airline, in a formation flight over the South of France to mark the occasion (David Seston writes). The aircraft leading the way in the photograph is the A320 demonstrator, which is at the head of the worldwide sales drive for the \$25 million A320, of which more than 400 have been ordered by operators in 18 countries. The Airbus consortium of manufacturers from Britain, France, West Germany and Spain is hopeful of a deal with Air Canada and, also, that British Airways might eventually buy 40 of the aircraft, mainly to replace the ageing fleet of BAC-111s. BA did not originally buy the A320 but agreed to

Haughey attacks British policy in Ulster

Thatcher brushes aside criticisms

By Sheila Goss, Political Staff

Mrs Thatcher yesterday brushed aside attacks on British policy in Northern Ireland by Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, as aimed directly at appeasing his Irish-American friends and critics at home who accuse him of being "soft".

The Prime Minister made clear that although she regretted his comments she is hoping Mr Haughey's speeches in New York and Boston, in which he called for "a new political structure" in the Province, will not dent the Anglo-Irish Agreement nor signal any long-term hardening in Dublin's attitude.

A senior Government source reported that the Prime Minister was "sorry" rather than angry that Mr Haughey appeared to be knocking the Anglo-Irish Agreement which had made "an important contribution towards peace and stability in Ulster".

comments may have been dictated by the nature of his audience. We hope they did not indicate that the Irish Government is going to back away from its responsibilities under the Agreement."

Speaking in New York, Mr Haughey warned of increasing impatience in the United States and around the world that the tragedy of Northern Ireland.

Border "violence" and "Catholic O'Brien" in Ireland was allowed to continue unresolved.

However, speaking later at Harvard University, Boston, he went further, calling for a constitutional conference as a prelude to Irish unity.

He said there was now an increasing body of opinion that believed a way forward must transcend the existing political framework of Northern Ireland.

He repeated his Government's commitment to Irish unity as a political goal, while condemning the IRA's campaign of violence. "The challenge that we face over Northern Ireland is to create a solution that will restore political cohesion through the exercise of self-determination by the Irish people."

In an implicit rebuke of the British security forces he added: "Democratic Parliaments today have cause to be concerned about the control and methods of operation of their own and other countries' intelligence services and security forces."

He told supporters of his Fianna Fail party in New York that the situation in Northern Ireland had worsened in spite of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Failure to prosecute those involved in the alleged shoot-to-kill policy, coupled with the rejection of the appeal by the Birmingham Six pub bombers had serious implications for public confidence in the administration of justice.

He referred to the shooting by security officers of three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar, saying: "The rule of law must be paramount in a civilized society. To retain its moral authority the state must always uphold the law."

Mr Alan Dukes, leader of Ireland's main opposition party Fine Gael, criticised Mr Haughey's speech, saying: "He has put in jeopardy the whole process of resolving the conflict in Northern Ireland."

Agreement Agreement Mr Desmond O'Malley, leader of the Progressive Democrats, accused Mr Haughey of having a "grudging and minimalist attitude" to the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

No-strike pledge led to nurses' big pay rise

Continued from page 1

faith in what they are doing. I hope it will help to alleviate some of the shortages."

Mrs Thatcher's remarks came after threats by Mr Hector Mackenzie, leader of the health service union, Coise, that further industrial action could not be ruled out if the Government failed to reward hospital ancillary workers and administrative and clerical staff who are not covered by pay review bodies.

Mr Mackenzie said the workers could take action over their claim for reduced hours and an extra £14 a week. "If it is not forthcoming, I think there could well be difficulties in the health service this summer. I think the Government may well not yet be out of the wood."

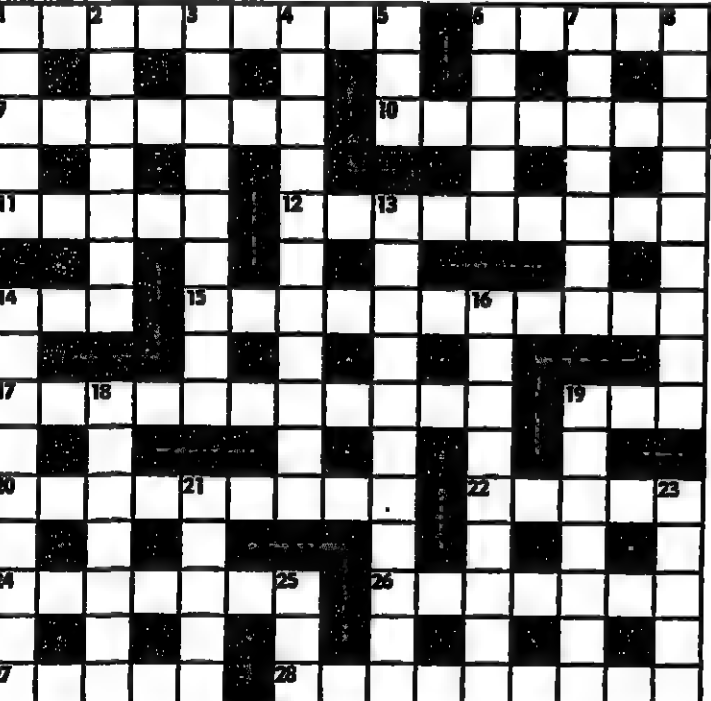
Health authorities have only been funded to cover a 4.5 per cent increase for all other staff groups. Mr Neil Kinnoch described the nurses' award yesterday as a cynical vote-catching bribe.

He said pay was only part of the problem. Talking to residents at a sheltered accommodation unit at Wolverhampton, Mr Kinnoch said no-one would be fooled by Government's apparent generosity.

"It is not going to make provision for the changes in the age of the population or changes in medical technology necessary to be met in order to get the health service out of crisis and keep it out of crisis."

The National Association of Health Authorities said the rises could improve recruitment and retention of nurses but would do little to help authorities which still faced cash problems. "Health authorities are still facing financial difficulties caused by previous underfunding and uncertainty over other pay awards which still have to be agreed."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,651



- ACROSS**
- Sounds like this, we hear? Just the reverse (9).
 - Criminal procrastination, for example (5).
 - Is equivalent of stops at sea (5,2).
 - Furniture - late rather than early Adam (7).
 - It can be used to dig up allotment... (5).
 - ... and scatter they round unusual garden shrub (9).
 - Rubbish removed from 4 (3).
 - Ornate piece of work for mending cardinal's robe (6,5).
 - Prayer that can be uplifting for people (11).
 - Impair - cut out odd bits? (3).
 - Reduce volumes in balance (9).
 - Roused the eccentric out of bed (3,2).
 - Very large problem to capture river animal (7).
 - Writer in fighting form turns to large book (7).
 - Navy getting positive vote before long (5).
 - Purify with scent if I'd made a mess (9).
- DOWN**
- Race in sea 'aze, so to speak (5).
 - Tough six-footer gets many parts in pictures (4,3).
 - Complaint could make Pluto rage (9).
 - British poet remaining inside association (11).
 - Aim for goal in close finish (3).
 - It's the eighth letter of alphabet, note (5).
 - Understanding in mind proverbially must be so (7).
 - Flock in direction of fold (9).
 - Harmful enough to destroy us going about the city (11).
 - Company store (9).
 - Temple concerned with exalting some female (9).
 - Boy put up a high shot in game where win follows draw (7).
 - Marathon leader on flat surface changing often (7).
 - Writer with nibs and pen starts off (5).
 - Assume one is employed? (5).
 - It's not clear what black sheep's name is (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,645

DOWN: 1. RACE, 2. TIGHT, 3. COMPLAINT, 4. BRITISH, 5. AIM, 6. H, 7. UNDERSTANDING, 8. FLOCK, 9. HARMFUL, 10. COMPANY, 11. TEMPLE, 12. BOY, 13. MARATHON, 14. WRITER, 15. NAVY, 16. PURIFY.

Solution to Puzzle No 17,650

ACROSS: 1. SOUNDS, 2. CRIMINAL, 3. EQUIVALENT, 4. FURNITURE, 5. IT CAN, 6. SCATTER, 7. RUBBISH, 8. ORNATE, 9. PRAYER, 10. IMPAIR, 11. REDUCE, 12. ROUSED, 13. VERY, 14. WRITER, 15. NAVY, 16. PURIFY.

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- CHERUBIMICAL**
a. Like an angel
b. Divine
c. A flaming red
d. SANEMACOGNA
- SANEMACOGNA**
a. A son-of-a-gun
b. Sardinian lace upturned
c. A sweet-smelling shrub
d. INSOLATE
- INSOLATE**
a. To send to Coventry
b. Pertaining to an eyot
c. To expose to the sun
d. INFRACANINOPHILE
- INFRACANINOPHILE**
a. The black lower teeth
b. A lover of Jack Russell
c. Supporter of the weak

Answers on page 22, column 1

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: B M Dunlop, Fitzwill Cottage, Docking, Norfolk; A Stott, 48 Liverpool Ave, Doncaster; S Yorks; R Waymark, 23 Anderson Lane, Southgate, Pennard, Swansea; J A Prentice, 14 Arden Street, Edinburgh; J Lander, Downing College, Cambridge.

Name _____
Address _____

WEATHER

Chilly easterly winds will keep down temperatures and bring sunny spells to most of Scotland and north and east England. Further south will be more cloudy and wet, although it will probably become brighter over much of the south-east and the Midlands. South-western England and Wales may have heavy rain at times, and some rain is quite likely to reach Northern Ireland. Outlook: Cloud and rain clearing from the south-west; staying cold with the chance of frost.

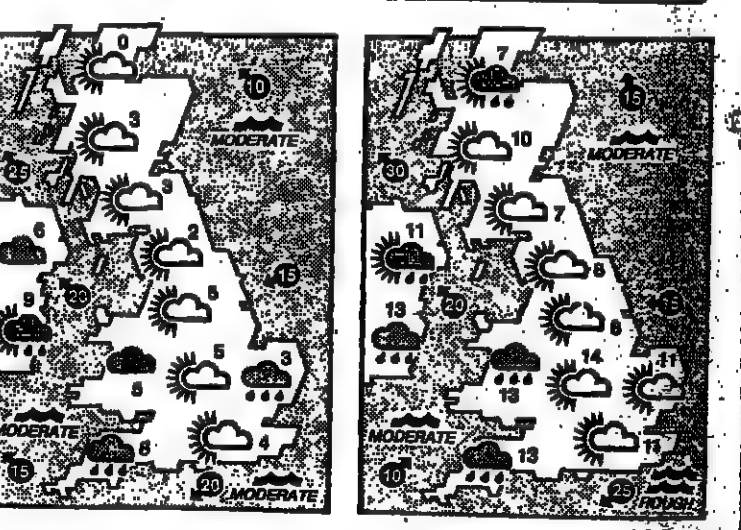
ABROAD

ABROAD	TEMP	WIND	WIND	WIND	WIND
Algeria	18-24	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
Amman	18-24	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
Algiers	18-24	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
Amman	18-24	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
Amman	18-24	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
Amman	18-24	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
Amman	18-24	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
Amman	18-24	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
Amman	18-24	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
Amman	18-24	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE

AROUND BRITAIN

AROUND BRITAIN	TEMP	WIND	WIND	WIND	WIND
London	12-18	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
London	12-18	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
London	12-18	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
London	12-18	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
London	12-18	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
London	12-18	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
London	12-18	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
London	12-18	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
London	12-18	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE
London	12-18	SE	10-15	cloudy	SE

AM PM



HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 12C (54F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 4C (39F). Humidity: 60-70%. Rain: 24hr to 5 pm, nil. Sea: 24hr to 5 pm, nil. 1015.5 millibars, rising. 6 pm, 1,000 millibars - 29.5 in.

LONDON

Thursday: Highest day temp: 12C (54F); lowest day temp: 4C (39F). Rain: 24hr to 5 pm, nil. Sea: 24hr to 5 pm, nil. 1015.5 millibars, rising. 6 pm, 1,000 millibars - 29.5 in.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 12C (54F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 4C (39F). Humidity: 60-70%. Rain: 24hr to 5 pm, nil. Sea: 24hr to 5 pm, nil. 1015.5 millibars, rising. 6 pm, 1,000 millibars - 29.5 in.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY: London 6.41 pm to 5.15 am. Bristol 6.51 pm to 5.25 am. Edinburgh 6.08 pm to 5.15 am. Manchester 6.55 pm to 5.15 am. Penzance 6.59 pm to 5.41 am.

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: London 12C (54F); Bristol 11C (52F); Edinburgh 10C (50F); Manchester 11C (52F); Penzance 11C (52F).

NOON TODAY

London 12C (54F); Bristol 11C (52F); Edinburgh 10C (50F); Manchester 11C (52F); Penzance 11C (52F).

THE POUND

THE POUND	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.575	2.445	Italy Lira	200	200
Belgium F	23	23.50	Japan Yen	240	240
Canada \$	68.76	65.35	Netherlands Gld	2.40	2.40
Denmark Kr	12.55	11.85	Portugal Esc	200	200
France Fr	7.44	7.44	Spain Ptas	166.67	166.67
Germany Dm	3.27	3.27	Switzerland Fr	2.00	2.00
Greece Dr	261	241	USA \$	1.58	1.58
Hong Kong \$	16.75	14.45	Yugoslavia Dn	200	200
Ireland Pt	1.258	1.258			

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1411.6 (-11.8)FT-SE 100
1771.6 (-20.3)Bargains
29201 (24308)USM (Datastream)
149.06 (+0.06)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8900 (-0.0090)W. German mark
3.1620 (+0.0030)Trade-weighted
78.7 (-0.1)Pressure
fades for
rate cut

The pound slipped back against a stronger dollar yesterday, but continued to gain ground against the mark. There was little pressure for an early cut in base rates.

Dealers believe that the pound will have to push substantially higher before the Bank of England and Treasury will permit a further rate cut. Money market rates firmed slightly yesterday.

The pound rose by a penny to DM3.1610, but slipped by nearly a cent to \$1.89. The sterling index edged down by 0.1 to 78.7.

The dollar rose by a penny to DM1.6730 and from ¥124 to ¥124.75 against the yen. The rise was attributed to short-covering by dealers ahead of the weekend.

200% jump

Grand Central Investment Holdings, the international food manufacturing and distribution group, raised pretax profits by 200 per cent last year to £1.4 million. Turnover went up by the same amount to £12.4 million. The chairman, Mr Ishwar Nahappan, said the company was on the look-out for acquisitions in Britain.

Bonar stake

Tomkins has been flushed out as a 2 per cent shareholder in Low & Bonar, the Scottish plastics and packaging group whose shares have risen sharply on takeover speculation. The shares, which have risen from 216p during this trading account, finished the day 5p down at 246p.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2008.15 (+15.75)
Tokyo	2887.12 (+8.98)
Nikkei Average	2887.12 (+8.98)
Hong Kong	2581.35 (+38.84)
Amsterdam	245.9 (-1.2)
Frankfurt	1498.1 (-1.5)
Prague	1377.4 (-1.1)
General	4881.0 (-9.8)
Paris CAC	308.0 (+8.5)
Zurich	344.8 (-3.0)
London	1411.6 (-11.8)
FT-30 Share	1411.6 (-11.8)
FT-100	1771.6 (-20.3)
FT Gold Mines	205.7 (-2.9)
FT Food Index	97.75 (-0.17)
FT Govt Secs	90.26 (+0.25)

Recent Indices
Closing prices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Assoc Energy	57 1/2p (+180)
Brammer	250p (+100)
Warrington	115 1/2p (+100)
Cliverley	269 1/2p (+120)
Highgate & Job	205p (+200)
HJ Quick	270p (+80)

FALLS

Cornold	885p (-100)
Boosey & Hawkes	275p (-110)
ICI	230p (-120)
General Accident	980p (-110)
Legal & General	275 1/2p (-100)
BPP	330p (-150)
Bank of Scotland	326 1/2p (-70)
Standard Chart	437 1/2p (-100)
Unilever	442 1/2p (-50)
Glaxo	950 1/2p (-170)
Int Thomson	585p (-100)
Brown Shipley	385p (-100)
Net West	527 1/2p (-110)

Closing prices

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Rate 5%	
3-month interbank 8 1/2-9 1/2%	
3-month eligible bills 7 1/2-7 7 1/2%	
buying rate	
US Prime Rate 8 1/2%	
Federal Funds 5 1/2%	
3-month Treasury Bills 5.82-5.81%	
30-year bonds 96 1/2-96 1/2%	

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£/\$1.8900	£/\$1.8900
£/DM3.1620	£/DM3.1620
£/¥124.75	£/¥124.75
£/FF16.67	£/FF16.67
£/Yen235.77	£/Yen235.77
£/Indec25.5	£/Indec25.5
£/EU2.56780	£/EU2.56780

GOLD

London Fixing	
AM \$483.15 pm \$448.60	
close \$448.00-449.50 (\$237.75-238.25)	
New York	
Comex \$449.50-450.00	

NORTH SEA OIL

Break (\$/bbl) pm \$17.20 (\$17.05)	
Monday London trading price	

Bus Roadway 26	Money Mkts 28
Stock Market 26	Foreign Exch 28
Wall Street 26	Bank Trfst 28
Traded Cpts 26	Commodities 28
Exchange Fleet 27	USM Prices 28
Temper 27	Share Prices 29

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Record home
loans fuel
inflation fear

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Mortgage lending broke records last month as the spring boom in house buying started, but with a continuing strong inflow of retail deposits, building societies were well able to meet the demand.

According to figures published yesterday by the Building Societies Association, loans exceeded £4 billion for the first time in a single month. Net new commitments — loans promised but not yet implemented — hit almost £6 billion, more than 40 per cent higher than the previous record last July.

The high level of mortgage lending, after Thursday's massive bank lending figure, is no comfort to the Government in its battle to hold down inflation. But the scramble for home loans is set to continue at the same rate in the near future, the BSA said.

Mr Mark Boleat, the director general of the BSA, said: "Lending is likely to stay at this level for the next two or three months."

Borrowing is being en-

couraged by the latest round of cuts in home loan rates to about 9.5 per cent, which will be introduced on May 1 by most societies. Home buyers will also have more money to spend after the cut in personal tax rates in the Budget.

In addition, demand for homes is receiving extra stimulus from the rush to beat the August deadline after which unmarried couples buying a home together will cease to qualify for two sets of mortgage interest tax relief.

Building societies have no shortage of funds to lend because of a massive inflow of retail deposits since the stock market crash. They received a net £1,059 million in March, the fourth month out of the past five when deposit inflows have topped £1 billion.

Over the past six months the average inflow has been more than £1 billion a month, setting a record. The previous best six-monthly period was September 1983 to February 1984 when inflows averaged £900 million a month.

The surge in deposits reflects the public's distrust of

the stock market and the "flight to safety" by many investors. The biggest inflows came last November when investors began switching out of shares and into safe deposit accounts. The societies estimate that most of the present inflow is new money which might have been invested in the stock market but is now being diverted to less risky investments.

Unit trusts have been particularly hard hit, with net inflows sinking to less than £60 million last month.

The societies borrowed more on the wholesale money markets in March — a net £352 million — more than double that in February and higher than in the previous two months.

The BSA's figures show that the average house price is now just under £50,000, with the rate of increase accelerating. In February it was running at about 22.7 per cent.

Lloyds Bank has cut its mortgage rate to 9.7 per cent while Sumitomo Bank, the Japanese banking group, cut its rate to 8.9 per cent.

Spending shows steady rise

Consumer spending continued to grow at a robust pace in the first three months of this year, according to official figures. Growth could be moderating, although the Budget tax cuts and lower mortgage rates are likely to provide a further boost.

First quarter consumer spending totalled £44.1 billion (in 1980 prices), preliminary estimates from the Central

Statistical Office showed, 0.6 per cent up on the fourth quarter of last year.

This compares with rises of 0.9 per cent in the fourth quarter and 2.6 per cent in the third quarter of last year.

However, there was a rise of 6.2 per cent in the first quarter against a year earlier. And it is uncertain whether the apparent easing of consumer spend-

ing growth will have been accompanied by an increase in the personal saving ratio, which fell to a 30-year low in the second half of last year.

The figures for the first quarter of this year showed continued strong growth in retail sales, tempered by a decline in spending on gas and electricity because of the mild winter weather.

Guinness inquiry examines
suspected insider dealing

By Lawrence Lever

The Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into Guinness, the drinks and leisure company, is believed to be examining purchases of shares in Arthur Bell & Sons, by Jersey and Swiss nominee companies, before the public announcement that Guinness was going to bid for the Scotch whisky group.

The DTI is examining evidence of suspected insider dealing in Bell shares by several individuals, some of whom are believed to be prominent names, who used the Jersey and Swiss nominees to buy their shares. The DTI inquiries could lead to criminal charges.

Bell shares rose from 160p

to 192p in the three days before the bid announcement on June 14, 1985. This prompted complaints by Guinness, which called for an inquiry.

The Stock Exchange did investigate, but its inquiries apparently floundered when Guinness, presented with evidence of suspected insider dealing, claimed that there was nothing in it.

According to sources close to the DTI, the results of the Stock Exchange investigation were resurrected after inspectors were appointed into Guinness in December, 1986. The Exchange's evidence is believed to have been passed on to the DTI and the Fraud

Squad team investigating Guinness.

Inquiries into Bell share dealings have led to Jersey companies which, when probed for their ultimate ownership, have in some cases revealed that they are controlled from Switzerland. The Fraud Squad is known to be making inquiries in both Jersey and Switzerland.

The Stock Exchange and the DTI have declined to comment, claiming that the detail of the investigations into Guinness is confidential. A spokesman for the Exchange said that it always investigates any unusual price movements, volumes or transactions.

Slough's Eurobond issue

By Colin Campbell

Slough Estates, the property group concentrating on industrial assets, is raising £150 million through a Euro-convertible bond issue to finance a current development programme conservatively estimated at £550 million.

Sir Nigel Mobbs, the chairman, says the issue has been structured in a way that will enable Slough Estates to take advantage of terms currently available in the international markets. The issue, dated 2003, carries a coupon of 6 per cent and the bonds are

convertible into ordinary shares at 324p.

Yesterday, Slough Estates shares stood at 281p, compared with market estimates of a current net worth of around 300p a share, which analysts expect to rise to between 340p and 350p by the end of 1988.

The bonds are being offered by way of rights to ordinary and 8 per cent stock holders on the basis of £100 nominal of bonds for every 187.604989 ordinary shares held; or £100

nominal for every £19.2415347 of stock.

A "rolling put" option assures investors of a compound redemption yield of approximately 9.45 per cent a year, including supplementary interest paid at redemption.

The Euro-bond issue has been fully underwritten by SG Warburg and a syndicate of international institutions, and — as the first of its kind — could pave the way for new possibilities in the way other fundraising transactions might be handled. Teapex.

Queue grows at Japanese SE

By David Watts in Tokyo and David Smith

Financial negotiators have again called for more British firms to be given seats on the Tokyo stock exchange, but Japan is unable to offer any immediate prospect of entry.

The TSE issue may cast a shadow over the visit to London of Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister of Japan, early next month, although yesterday officials at the Treasury, the Bank of England and the Department of Trade and Industry played down the dispute.

There is little prospect that Britain's outstanding applications for seats on the TSE will affect the impending entry into the gilt-edged market of Nomura and Daiwa, the Japanese securities houses. Both firms have completed technical discussions with the Bank in recent weeks, and are due to start market-making operations over the next two months.

The Bank could be called on to delay the go-ahead for the two Japanese firms, but yesterday this appeared to be highly unlikely. Discussions between the Bank, Nomura and Daiwa have been proceeding since last autumn.

Treasury officials said yesterday that the question of whether the two firms

started operating as gilt market-makers rested with the Bank.

Mrs Thatcher has indicated that she expects outstanding Anglo-Japanese issues to be settled speedily. Among those are seats for two more British firms, including Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan) Ltd, and abolition of discriminatory taxes on Scotch whisky.

Sir Geoffrey Lintell, the Second Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, said in Tokyo this week that he had expected agreement during his visit. He said it was unfortunate that entry should be limited by such an old-fashioned problem as the amount of space available in the TSE.

Despite attitudes markedly different from his first visit four years ago, Sir Geoffrey issued a veiled warning to his Japanese counterparts that continued progress on their entry into British financial markets was dependent on progress in Tokyo.

He could not predict early agreement on new TSE entries but said: "I'm satisfied that there is a great deal of goodwill." Sir Geoffrey said the British timeframe for the admission of Barclays and James Capel to the TSE was the one year. Asked if the issue would affect the

Japanese prime minister's visit he said: "I can't make a judgement."

Also discussed during the visit was Japanese interest in winning full branch status for representative offices in Britain, and being allowed to become primary dealers.

Sir Geoffrey sought British management opportunities in Japanese company pension funds, investment trust banking and government pension funds. There would be further discussions on the branch status of Japanese banks in London which "we would look at with sympathy, tempered by how well we're getting on ourselves."

Four British securities won seats on the TSE last December, and will take them up at the end of next month. They are County Natwest Securities (Japan) Ltd; Kleinwort Benson International Inc; Schroder Securities (Japan) Ltd and Baring Securities Ltd.

Japan's four biggest securities companies have reported large falls in revenues and profits, following the October crash. The four — Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi — showed an average 15 per cent decline in revenues and a 21.3 per cent drop in net profits for the six months ending March 31.

SE moves after TV claims



Records dug out by Stock Exchange officials: James Neill's chief executive, Peter Bullock

Suter deals
in James
Neill stock
examined

By Joe Joseph

Officials of the Stock Exchange have investigated dealings by Suter, Mr David Abell's last-growing industrial holding company, in the shares of James Neill Holdings, the Sheffield garden and hand tool maker.

The information they collected is believed to have been passed on to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Two members of the exchange's surveillance department visited Neill's offices shortly after Christmas and spent two days looking through the company's share register, specifically at dealings and share transfer documents relating to the periods in 1983 and 1984 when Suter took a stake in James Neill.

Mr Peter Bullock, Neill's chief executive, confirmed last night: "We have been visited by investigators from the Stock Exchange looking at Suter's dealings in our shares and we understand that the information they gathered has been passed on to the Department of Trade and Industry."

The investigations immediately followed allegations on a television programme of insider trading by Mr Abell in the shares of various companies. They are believed to have focused on the timing of dealings in Neill's shares by several nominee accounts in relation to purchases subsequently made by Suter.

In August 1984, Suter disclosed that it had boosted its stake in Neill from 5 per cent to 10.74 per cent.

Mr Abell has denied charges levelled in the Channel 4 television programme, called *The Insiders*. The broadcast dealt with alleged insider dealing and alleged "concert parties".

Mr Abell has issued a libel writ against the programme makers.

French
clear Les
Echos
purchase

By Colin Campbell

The French government will not stand in the way of Pearson's £88 million plan to buy *Les Echos*, the French financial daily, after having earlier moved to block the deal on fears that control of *Les Echos* might move out of non-European Economic Community hands.

M. Edouard Balladur, the French Finance Minister, has now accepted Pearson's contention that even though The News Corporation has a 20.5 per cent stake in Pearson, more than 70 per cent of Pearson equity was still owned by EEC citizens, and that Pearson was therefore an EEC company.

Pearson, the publishing, banking and information group which owns the *Financial Times*, and Mme Jacqueline Beytout, the owner of *Les Echos*, last week agreed a modified contract under which Pearson will initially acquire only two-thirds of the equity of *Les Echos*, taking up the balance a year later.

Part of the payment for *Les Echos* comprises 7.375 million Pearson shares, and under the terms of the revised bid the right of first refusal for these shares is granted to Lazard Frères et Cie, thus ensuring a continued French connection.

A Pearson spokesman said yesterday that completion of the deal was expected to take place shortly.

M&S will cut
price for US
deal by \$20m

By Alexandra Jackson

Marks and Spencer has renegotiated the price it will pay Campeau Corporation, the Canadian property group, for Brooks Brothers, the US retail chain, from \$770 million to \$750 million (£397 million).

The transaction is expected to be completed next Wednesday.

The saving was achieved by changing the funding arrangement for the part of the purchase covered by the issue of a Marks and Spencer 10-year promissory note.

The interest terms of the note have been adjusted from a fixed rate of 8 1/2 per cent to a floating rate at London Inter-Bank Offered Rate.

Mr Keith Oates, Marks and Spencer's finance director, said: "When both sides took a closer look at the financing of the deal, it became apparent that Campeau preferred a floating interest rate. We are not worried about having a floating rate at Libor."

Sunday
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Deadlock continues as Framlington fails to find white knight

By John Bell, City Editor

Framlington, the unit trust management group which is furiously fighting a £67 million takeover bid from Throgmorton Trust, has so far failed to find a white knight.

Mr Bill Stuttard, Framlington's chairman, said yesterday that the search continued. But he held out no firm hope to shareholders of an early announcement. "I will be writing to you again to report further progress," he tells them in a letter being posted this weekend.

Mr Stuttard's disclosure was being taken in the City as a sign that the search for a white knight to the deadlock which has split Framlington's

Buyout at Hill Samuel insurer

By Cliff Feltman

Lowndes Lambert, the Lloyd's insurance broker arm of the Hill Samuel group, is being bought by its management in a deal thought to be worth about £15 million.

Fifty five members of the management have put up more than £1 million towards the buyout which is being supported by a group of institutional investors.

These are led by Candover Investments, Alan Parfitt Associates, ECI Ventures, the Candover 87 Fund and Mars Security.

Bank finance is coming from the National Westminster Bank.

Hill Samuel, which has declined to put a figure on the deal, says the sale will end its involvement in international corporate insurance broking. However, the group is holding on to Hill House Hammond, the motor and household insurance subsidiary of Lowndes Lambert.

The idea of a management buyout of the business was first raised when it looked as if the Union Bank of Switzerland would bid for Hill Samuel.

Under Swiss rules it would not have been permitted to retain ownership of the company.

But this deal floundered and when Hill Samuel was subsequently taken over by the Trustee Savings Bank it was decided to proceed with the disposal.

Lowndes Lambert made a small profit last year as it suffered along with other insurance brokers from the strong dollar and a softening in premium income. But it is expected to bounce back strongly this year and is likely to match the £2.6 million made in 1986.

The company has offices in a number of countries and, in addition to handling general insurance business ranging from marine to aviation, has a fast expanding operation called APIA offering professional indemnity for architects.

Mr Richard Shaw, the chairman, said: "We have built up Lowndes Lambert successfully as part of the Hill Samuel group and we welcome the opportunity to develop further the company as an independent business."

"The degree of management investment is the best evidence of our confidence both in the prospects for the company."

Racal sets pace in Europe's race towards single market



KENNETH FLEET

Sir Ernest Harrison is an enthusiast — for Racal, racing and the rationale of a single European market. At Racal he is on course for a rare double — a second growth stock within the span of one chairman. In Europe he is a pacesetter, while in the market Racal shares (243p with a speculative following) are, I suggest, again a core investment.

Alerting investors to the merits of a share is much easier than stirring the interest of British companies in the European Commission's resolve "to achieve a single large market by 1992, thereby creating a more favourable environment for stimulating enterprise, competition and trade."

Our irregularity is not quite as marked as in 1957 when the Treaty of Rome, if it were thought of at all, was scornfully dismissed as a fantasy of the absurd European imagination. The Government at least is not making the same mistake as its predecessors did then. Sir John Harvey-Jones fixes us from page and screen with Kitchenier intensity and it may not be too long before it dawns on companies operating only in the domestic market that their businesses too will be exposed to new competition.

The integrated market will be created by eliminating barriers that still divide Europe: physical (for example frontiers), technical (different standards) and fiscal (different indirect taxes). Some of the costs of division are an indication of potential benefits. Frontier formalities are estimated to cost £8.3 billion, different technical standards for products a staggering £30 billion. Favouring home producers in awarding government contracts is also said to cost European taxpayers £30 billion. The 12 members of the

Community together spend about the same amount on research and development as Japan but because it is fragmented it is less effective.

Of course not everything will happen in the form or at the time foreseen by proponents of the unified market — but plenty will and it is not too soon to identify areas of greatest impact and to speculate about the implications of deregulation. The year 1992 is the deadline, not the starting date — a mistake made here but not across the Channel.

Smith New Court (in which I have to declare a modest interest) has put together an analysis of some significant aspects of deregulation, including a handy Continental takeover directory. Cross-border takeovers are becoming a feature of the London market and are bound to increase, with British companies increasingly frequent targets. France and Belgium, while not as open to foreign bids as Britain, are relatively so. In contrast West Germany, The Netherlands and Switzerland are heavily protective but at the same time expansive and likely to be active in the takeover game. Spain is a magnet for investment because of its high growth rate and the need to make up ground.

The impact of deregulation on industry obviously will vary. SNC is the biggest impact in telecommunications, information technology, financial services and transport. In telecommunications, specific measures have been agreed to integrate national systems handling voice, text, facsimile and data transmission by 1993, and a move made toward a digital cellular radio standard within the European Economic Community from 1991 onward. Which brings me back to Sir Ernest Harrison and Racal.

Analysts are again looking with favour on a stock that had shone as brightly as any star before falling out of the electrical sky. The Third World market for mobile military communications equipment had shrunk and Racal's incursions into corporate America, now under control, were proving beyond its capacity to manage. The purchase of Decca from under GEC's nose was inspired but all defence work has become increasingly competitive and much less profitable.

Racal's achievement is to change the thrust of the business from a narrow specialised market where growth is restricted, to consumer markets where it is virtually limitless. The temptation to back into the problems of the electronics industry by merger or acquisition is being resisted. Cellular radio (Vodafone) and security (Chubb) are what Racal is now about.

With BT, Racal shares the British market for mobile telephones and is one of two British companies licensed to operate the pan-European digital cellular radio network. More than half Racal's profits come from Vodafone and security, and given the new European dimension, which will also help security, this proportion, and thus the quality of Racal's earnings, will rise.

With two runners like this in the stable, who needs racehorses?

Government's economic Catch 22

The Government is in a Catch 22 situation. The frailty of the US dollar and the courting of the pound are pushing sterling to dizzy heights. Exporters complain and the current balance of payments may, in time, suffer. But to intervene, either by selling sterling in the foreign exchange market or, more dramatically, by cutting interest rates, may lead to more spending, more credit, more imports and more inflation.

This dilemma should not be seen in a tragic light at this stage. The aim of trying to balance the risks is not a bad one, especially when the reserves and the Government's international status are high and our most useful contribution to stopping the spread of an international financial malaise is simply to keep our own noses clean.

The equity market remains on tenterhooks, and nothing is visible that would restore confidence enough to send prices firmly higher. On the other hand, no man's land is better than falling over the brink. Intellectually, it is easier to be a bear than a bull.

But let us not look gift horses in the mouth. If prices before the October crash had reached levels which were

not justified by fundamentals such as company earnings and dividends, the same cannot be said of today's prices. Earnings this year are expected to grow by around 13 per cent, and in 1989 by about 11 per cent (James Capel's estimate). If they are right, industrial equities are now on a prospective price-earnings of 11, falling next year to 10. These are not bad defensive positions.

With all the usual caveats ringing in our ears, let us then test the water. I have already referred to Racal. In the same category of imaginative strategic management I would put P&O (586p). Sir Jeffrey Sterling and Bruce MacPhail have revealed one of the hidden strengths of British industry, namely its high level of efficiency. Strength because when good management is applied to it, progress is astonishing. And there is still a long way to go, even in companies whose performance has already turned sceptics into acolytes. P&O has a problem with ferries; it also has zeal, determination and construction and property divisions.

A coherent and evolving strategy is also evident at Trusthouse Forte (234p), where Rocco Forte is rapidly filling the mantle handed to him by his

father. When looking at THF, it is easy to be deflected by side-shows, although the continuing struggle with the Savoy is hardly a side-show. The strength and balance the group has already achieved in hotels and catering make the shares a core holding.

A company still suffering from its past is British Airways (164p) whose figures are due next month. The Lord King-Sir Colin Marshall-Gordon Dunlop trio has done an outstanding job. Acquiring British Caledonian and, more particularly, the code-sharing agreement with United Airlines, were shrewd initiatives. A rerating of BA is overdue.

Earlier in the year I extolled the virtues of independent oil companies, one of which, Enterprise (now 370p), has become the star of the British exploration and production sector. The shares have had an excellent rise and the market in them is relatively restricted, but Enterprise will be around for a long time (unless it is taken over). I believe in backing good management — a quality Enterprise has demonstrated in its relationship with ICI as well as in its success in the North Sea, culminating in the Nelson field.

Name change signals transition to minerals

Losses at Cluff grow to £2.1m

Cluff Oil, the USM-quoted mining and minerals exploration company, made a pretax loss in the year to end-December of £2.1 million against a previous loss of £18,000.

The loss contained a £1 million exceptional charge due to a write-off by an associate company in Australia. Turnover rose to £2.4 million from £2.2 million.

Mr Algy Cluff, the chairman, emphasized that 1987 was a turning point in Cluff's transition from an oil exploration to a minerals production company. It is changing its name, subject to shareholder approval, to Cluff Resources.

Production started this year at two gold mines in Zimbabwe and one in Spain and should rise to 80,000 ounces a year by the end of 1988, placing Cluff in the middle rank of international gold producers.

Discoveries in Zimbabwe have defined an additional 140,000 ounces of gold in open-pit reserves. Gold reserves in Zimbabwe now stand at 720,000 ounces, up 57 per cent on those stated in last year's annual report.

The company's strategy for the next two years is to accelerate its involvement in mineral exploration and development in Africa, Continental Europe and North America. See *Tempos* below



Planning ahead: Algy Cluff (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

TEMPUS

Cluff goes for gold far away from oil's troubled waters

Cluff Oil's swift transformation from an oil exploration company into a minerals production company has not yet been fully appreciated by the market.

Cluff still has one last oil exploration well to drill in Indonesia this summer, but after that its oil interests will be confined to production in France, the North Sea, America and offshore Oman. A high 95 per cent of the company's cashflow will come from minerals.

The main thrust of the new strategy is in Zimbabwe, where production from two open-pit gold mines — Freda and Rebecca — started this year. Cluff, the chairman, clearly has no reservations about political or other uncertainties in Zimbabwe.

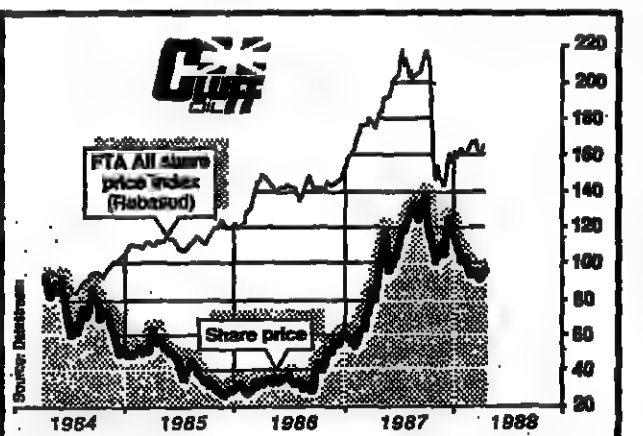
As the first overseas investor to go back into that country after its independence, Cluff has had a good relationship with the relevant government departments. The country's infrastructure is good, the gold mines are not in dangerous areas and the company has no fears of nationalization.

Cluff has been remitting dividends from Zimbabwe for the past three years, and sees no reason why it should not continue to do so. Mr Cluff is so bullish about Zimbabwe's prospects that he expects the country to become the "West Germany of Africa".

Cluff is not, however, putting all its eggs into one basket. Its Transaccon gold mine in Spain is increasing production and by the end of this year the company expects to have a total of four mines producing an annual 80,000 ounces of gold.

With an average operating cost in the Zimbabwe mines of \$220 per ounce, against a current gold price around \$448, there is clearly a more comfortable risk margin than in oil exploration.

The company intends to branch into industrial minerals in Europe and North America. Last year's £5 million rights issue has provided sufficient finance to start production rolling, and the



cashflow from the mines should now finance future development.

Kleinwort Greaveson expects profits to bounce to £1.1 million this year and £1.8 million next year. The shares up 5p to 100p yesterday, still do not put as high a value on the company as comparable minerals companies. There should be some way for the shares to go.

James Neill

James Neill, having climbed back from the setback it suffered when its Sheffield factory caught fire two years ago, now has a problem finding a way to fire the imagination of the City. Analysts seem less than excited by the company, in spite of a track record that, in the past, has attracted both Suter and Williams Holdings on to the share register.

Notwithstanding an impressive 68 per cent rise in pretax profits to £7.61 million last year on sales of £79.9 million, and a 70 per cent jump in earnings to 22.1p a share, the hand and garden tool group is dogged with a p/e of about 9, against an industry average of just above 10.

With analysts expecting pretax profits this year of about £9 million and earnings of 24p a share, the prospective p/e — for a company which many feel should carry a premium rating — falls to 8.

It is true that Neill's recovery received another setback recently when its proposed £6

million acquisition of the Diston Company, a leading American hand tool manufacturer, was scrapped at the eleventh hour over what appears to be a legal hitch.

A confidentiality clause shrouds the stumbling block. But it is possible that Neill, still keen to beef up its US operations, will return to Diston if the hitch can be resolved.

It is also worth remembering that Spear & Jackson, the Sheffield hand tool manufacturer Neill acquired in December 1985, has only just been fully integrated following delays caused by the fire. Cost savings of at least £500,000 should begin flowing through to boost profits this year.

Neill can take heart from the fact that overseas competitors do not seem to be making many inroads into the British market.

There are still tasks ahead. In addition to strengthening its presence in America, Neill needs to acquire a company or distribution network in Europe to boost its profile in the EEC.

It is already number three in its field in Europe, and takeover talks with a West German company are under way.

Slough Estates

Slough Estates has been astute with the timing of its £150 million Euroconvertible bond issue dated 2003, which has more than just passing attraction.

Because the relative yield attraction once evident on its

ordinary shares has largely been whittled away — as a result of the strong share price performance since October — there is now a case, for those without undue capital gains problems, for changing horses from the ordinary into the bonds.

The 6 per cent Euroconvertible bond issue raises £150 million of fresh capital to help finance development programmes, planned both in Britain and abroad, which — conservatively — runs to £550 million.

Had Slough made a domestic issue, it might have had to offer a coupon at least 1 to 1.5 percentage points higher.

The bonds are convertible from June 1988 into ordinary shares at 324p each, and because the conversion price is not very far removed from last published net worth of 287p a share, the dilution effect should be minimal. Full conversion of the bond would result in the issue of shares representing approximately 16.7 per cent of Slough's existing capital.

Conversion price is also fairly close to the current estimate of net worth of at least 300p a share, which looks certain to rise. By year-end, net asset value could well have risen to between 340p and 350p a share.

There is a "rolling put" option, enabling holders to redeem between the years 1993 and 1998 at a value which assures a compound redemption yield of around 9.45 per cent.

Meanwhile, following recently-posted 1987 results showing pretax profits up from £49.6 million to £61.8 million, City forecasts for 1988 — which were about the £70 million mark — have been further upgraded. Borrowing at 6 per cent with the ability to deploy funds in the money market could add another £2 million to the pretax line.

Slough Estates' significant hold on the South-east industrial market, where demand remains strong, suggests the company — either via the bonds or the shares — is worth following.

Financing Enterprise

Why Royal Trust Bank means a great deal to European Electronic Systems

The International Stock Exchange in London now has a new "Watchdog".

It's an advanced computer management and transaction timing system developed by European Electronic Systems Limited, Europe's leading developer of precision timing and measurement systems.

When EES wanted finance to develop "Watchdog" and maintain its excellent level of company development and growth, it turned to Royal Trust Bank for help.

We responded quickly and efficiently with a total corporate refinancing package.

This included medium-term loan finance to fund essential research and development, including "Watchdog", ongoing working capital facilities and a long-term commercial mortgage to allow for further premises expansion.

This is just one example of Royal Trust Bank's approach to Financing Enterprise.

We pride ourselves on our personal service to customers, not just as lenders, but as advisers too, tailoring our services to fulfill our clients' individual requirements.

If, like EES, you think your company would benefit from the flexible Royal Trust Bank approach to financing enterprise, contact Jonathan Stocker or Paul Smith in London. They will be pleased to listen and help.

Royal Trust Bank is a subsidiary of Royal Trust, one of Canada's largest financial institutions with assets under administration of C\$ 84 billion worldwide.



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FOREIGN EXCHANGES 147-148

Sterling Index compared with 1970 was down in Feb. (5 day range 77.42-82.12)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				OTHER STERLING RATES			
Market rates for April 22				Argentine auster			
Range	Close	1 month	3 month	Australia dollar	13,529-13,534		
New York	1,895.5-1,893.0	1,899.5-1,899.5	0.18-0.12p	0.38-0.34p	Bahrian dirr	7,495-7,497	
London	1,934.1-1,934.1	1,937.0-1,937.0	0.05-0.05p	0.05-0.05p	Brazil cruzeiro *	242.50-243.40	
Brussels	3,577.2-3,570.4	3,546.6-3,560.6	15-16p	3p-31p	Canada pound	1,839.0-1,843.0	
Amsterdam	95.68-95.58	95.38-95.58	21-23p	44-22p	Denmark kroner	2,592.50-2,592.50	
Frankfurt	12,136.12-12,132	12,136.12-12,132	15-16p	3p-31p	India rupee	252.00-254.00	
Paris	1,179.9-1,194.1	1,162.0-1,183.0	24-17p	5p-15p	Indonesia rupiah	24.81-25.01	
Frankfurt	3,529.1-3,526.8	3,529.3-3,529.8	15-15p	3p-31p	Kenya shilling	0.5140-0.5130	
London	1,934.1-1,934.1	1,937.0-1,937.0	0.05-0.05p	0.05-0.05p	Malaya dollar	1,487.0-1,487.0	
Amsterdam	10.0-20.27	10.20-20.18	4p-10p	5p-10p	Mexico peso	32.90-32.90	
Brussels	94.4-28.251.76	94.48-235.71	5-7p	33-20p	New Zealand dollar	2,728.9-2,737.8	
Frankfurt	12,136.12-12,132	12,136.12-12,132	15-16p	3p-31p	Philippine peso	0.778-0.778	
Paris	1,179.9-1,194.1	1,162.0-1,183.0	24-17p	5p-15p	Singapore dollar	2,770.7-2,787.7	
Amsterdam	95.68-95.58	95.38-95.58	21-23p	44-22p	S. Africa rand rand	0.8410-0.8408	
Frankfurt	12,136.12-12,132	12,136.12-12,132	15-16p	3p-31p	S. Africa rand rand	0.8410-0.8408	
Paris	1,179.9-1,194.1	1,162.0-1,183.0	24-17p	5p-15p	U.A.E. dirham	1,919.0-1,936.0	
Amsterdam	95.68-95.58	95.38-95.58	21-23p	44-22p			
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Frankfurt	12,136.12-12,132	12,136.12-12,132	15-16p	3p-31p			
Paris	1,179.9-1,194.1	1,162.0-1,					

THIRD MARKET

Three Month Starling				US Treasury Bond			
Jan 82	91.78	91.78	91.45	91.48	10094	91.45	91.45
Feb 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Mar 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Apr 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
May 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Jun 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Jul 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Aug 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Sep 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Oct 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Nov 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Dec 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Jan 83	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Feb 83	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Mar 83	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Apr 83	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
May 83	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Jun 83	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Jul 83	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
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Oct 83	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
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Nov 85	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Dec 85	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45

Three Month Starling				US Treasury Bond			
Jan 82	91.78	91.78	91.45	91.48	10094	91.45	91.45
Feb 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Mar 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Apr 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
May 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
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Nov 85	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Dec 85	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45

COMMODITIES

Three Month Starling				US Treasury Bond			
Jan 82	91.78	91.78	91.45	91.48	10094	91.45	91.45
Feb 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Mar 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Apr 82	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
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May 85	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
Jun 85	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45
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Sep 85	91.78	91.45	91.45	91.45	91.45		

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Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are indicated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes in yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 26).

96	John C. ...	112	117	-3	4.6	2.5	17.5
97	Admiral Camp	99	755	-	6.0	5.0	14.4
98	John	294	294	-	3.8	3.3	17.5
99	Admiral	155	154	-1	5.5	5.0	9.3
100	Admiral (Jen)	97	857	-3	6.7	5.7	13.3
101	Admiral	148	150	+2	2.4	2.5	12.1

[illegible]

158	143	Starting and	150	160	-	4.4	2.8	21.9
15	71	Stomach	38	43	-	4.3	10.5	4.3
181	133	Sugar	188	177	W=1	6.9	4.1	3.6
128	108	Sunny Pacific 'A'	115	118	B=2	-	-	-
38	29	Succinea	32	27	-	-	-	-
330	300	Synapse	280	320	-	14.3	4.8	18.3

195	50	Century	175	180	...	8.1	4.6	10
196	102	Citic	145	141	8
77	40	Continental Energy	69	72
267	256	Exxon Corp.	263	260	13.0	2.6
155	79	First Fed	197	193	1.4	2
135	105	W. Western Res.	105	110	9.8	4.3

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■ Ex dividend ■ Ex ■ Forecast dividend ■ Interim payment passed ■ Price at suspension ■ Dividend and yield exclude a special payment ■ Pre-merger figure ■ Forecast earnings ■ Ex other ■ Ex rights ■ Ex scrip on share split ■ Tax-free .. No significant data.

Deadline date for BAA shareholders

Second and final instalments on BAA shares are due by 3pm on Thursday, May 19. There are fewer than two million shareholders now, down from the 2.2 million who piled in when the airport operator was sold off in July. This instalment is for £1.45 and call notices were due to go out yesterday.

Shareholders who have not received a letter by Tuesday, May 8, are asked to contact the Midland Bank's Stock Exchange services department on 01-260 8101. Lines will be open from May 3, from 8.30am to 8pm, seven days a week. Those who do not pay are warned that they could lose their shares. The last day on which shares can be dealt on a party paid basis is Friday, May 6.

British Gas reported that 750,000, a quarter of all its shareholders and roughly equivalent to the number of shareholders in ICI, had not paid final instalments by last Tuesday's deadline. But by the end of the week 95 per cent of the three million shareholders had paid up and 90 per cent of payments had been processed. No deadline had been imposed for reclaiming shares from late payers.

Charity spenders

Save the Children is hoping to raise £300,000 during the next two years through a special credit card launched this week. The Save the Children TSB Trustcard has a photograph of half a dozen smiling

FAMILY MONEY BRIEFING

children on it to distinguish it from a routine card. By using it customers will be helping the charity at no cost to themselves. TSB Trustcard will donate 25p to Save the Children for every card taken out plus 25p for every £100 spent with the card.

Trustcard, which trails behind Barclaycard and Access with 2.8 million cardholders, hopes the scheme will encourage people to sign up with them and use the card at every opportunity. The scheme is similar to one launched six months ago pairing the NSPCC and the Bank of Scotland's Visa card.

Three-way answer

Commercial Union's answer to a rocky market is three new unit trusts graded according to their risk level but each with an underpinning content of fixed-interest securities. The names of the trusts are Private, Progressive and Professional Investors Portfolios, and they are graded, respectively, as cautious, realistic and higher-risk.

Some people might find it hard to differentiate between caution and realism in the present climate, so it is perhaps best to read realistic as medium-risk. Unit trusts are not exactly selling like hot cakes at the moment but CU is providing a little sweeter. There is an option to buy more units on July 12 at the launch price even though the fixed-price offer ends on May 13.

The offer price for each will be 50p. Initial charges are 5.25 per cent on each but the annual charges are 1 per cent, 1.25 per cent and 1.5 per cent.

Young and thrifty

The booming market in instant credit from retailers and the proliferation of special deals offered to students by banks suggests that young people are vulnerable to debt. Not so, according to market research company IFT, which notes a fairly cautious attitude to credit among the under-25s. The company's research shows that nearly one in five mortgages are now going to people in this age group. But while they are happy to commit themselves heavily for a home they are wary about other forms of borrowing.

If they want to borrow, the first place they think of approaching is their bank, but credit cards are seen as a danger and half the under-25s pay their accounts off before interest is due.

Credit made simple

If you are puzzled by the term annual percentage rate, usually expressed by lenders simply as APR, you might do well to get hold of a copy of Mercantile House's new guide to credit. The guide, called *An ABC of Credit*, is a glossary of terms used by lenders and is useful reading for those wishing to find their way around the complex market for loans or sign an agreement to borrow money. It has been written with help from the Plain English Campaign.

The guide is available from any of Mercantile's 65 branches or by telephoning Ann Negus at Mercantile on 01-242 1234.

Endowment winners

Two insurance groups, Standard Life and Scottish Widows, share the top honours in the latest survey of with-profit endowment policies, writes Maria Scott.

The survey by *Money Management* magazine, which looks at the performance of 65 life offices, is illuminating reading for anyone with an existing policy, whether to pay the mortgage or for saving, or for anyone who is thinking of starting one.

Standard Life tops the league of 10 best performers on both 10-year and 25-year policies, while Scottish Widows takes the top spot on 15-year policies. Standard only narrowly missed leading all three tables as it also came second in the 15-year league.

The figures are based on the maturity value payable at February 1 on policies for a man aged 30 next birthday at the start of the policy. Premiums are £10 a month rising to £30 in 1985.

Standard has topped the 10-year and 25-year tables for the past three years. *Money Management* says it is encouraging to see a number of offices in the top 10 tables consistently throughout the 19 years the survey has been conducted.

Although it dropped out of

the top 10 for 15-year policies in 1975 and 1978, Standard was present from 1970 to 1981 and again from 1983 to now. Over 25 years Scottish Widows has been in the top 10 throughout the period.

Equitable Life is also a stalwart of consistent performance, missing out only 1973 for top 10 presence between 1970 and 1985.

The top maturity values this year on 10-year, 15-year and 25-year policies are, respectively, £8,958, £19,658 and £54,072. The average pay-outs across all companies are £7,132, £14,564 and £40,402. One of the much trumpeted virtues of with-profit policies, compared with investment in a unit trust or unit-linked fund, is that they are less vulnerable to the ups and downs in the stock market through the cushioning effect of annual bonuses. However, the bonuses themselves depend on the way share prices are performing and what is happening to interest rates.

Both, of course, are depressed and this is beginning to show through on with-profit policies as well.

Some companies have trimmed their terminal bonuses — those added when a policy matures — on 10-year policies and this is reflected in the

performance tables. There has been a general drop, notes *Money Management*, with Standard's pay-out, for example, shaved by 0.7 per cent. Companies have taken the view that the current market conditions should fall on the shorter-term policies, while investors in for a longer run should still get increased pay-outs. Thus Scottish Widows' leading 15-year policy has increased its bonus by 3.6 per cent, while Standard's top performer over 25 years is up 2.3 per cent.

The top-yielding policies continue to outstrip inflation. This year's highest return on a 10-year policy produces a yield for 1988 of 17.4 per cent, discounting life assurance premium relief, which was abolished in 1984.

This compares with an average annual inflation rate during the past 10 years to February of 8.1 per cent.

But while this year's figures present a fairly rosy picture of the way with-profit endowments are performing for their investors the future is less certain. Cutting bonuses, especially the annual, or "reversionary" bonuses which, once added to a policy cannot be taken away, is anathema to life offices because of the possible effect on performance. There

is the obvious risk of a knock-on effect on the office's image and sales.

However, some companies have warned that it will be hard to sustain present bonus levels, and that venerable stalwart of the industry, Equitable Life, actually took the bit between its teeth this year and cut reversionary rates on its 10-year policies.

25-YEAR ENDOWMENT POLICIES MATURING FEBRUARY 1988

Standard Life	£54,072
Friends Provident	£51,097
Scottish Amicable	£50,936
Scottish Widows	£50,521
Norwich Union	£50,394
Scottish Life	£49,288
Commercial Union	£48,469
Clerical Medical	£48,466
Scottish Provident	£48,286
Eagle Star	£47,370
Tunbridge Wells	£47,220
Average	£46,482

The table shows, in respect of a true gross premium of £10 a month (£30 from 1985) inclusive of policy fees, the maturity value payable on the top 10 policies. Figures are based on a man aged 30 next birthday at the start of the policy. Premiums are £10 a month rising to £30 in 1985.

* Figures national, as restrictions prevented locally issued policies of this size at the time.

	Nominal rate	Compounded return at tax rates		Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
		25%	40%			
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c	2.00	2.02	1.62	1 min	0-7 day	01-600 6020
Barclays	2.00	2.02	1.62	1 min	7 day	—
Fixed Term Deposits	5.50	5.50	4.40	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-728 1000
National Westminster	5.50	5.53	4.50	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-728 1000
" "	5.53	5.53	4.03	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-260 8000
" "	5.04	5.04	4.14	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000
Midland	5.18	5.18	4.14	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000
" "						
" "						
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary A/c	4.00	4.04	3.23	1 min	—	—
Britannia	6.15	6.15	4.92	250 min	—	—
Northern Rock	6.30	6.30	5.04	500 min	—	—
Chesham & Glouce	6.50	6.50	5.20	5,000 min	—	—
Britannia & Northern Rock	6.75	6.75	5.40	10,000 min	—	—
Northern Rock	7.05	7.05	5.64	20,000 min	—	—
" "			7.00	1 min	—	—

MONEY FUNDS						
Atken Hume Monthly Inc	5.56	5.72	4.58	1,000 min	—	01-638 6070
Allied Arab HICA	6.33	6.52	5.22	3,000 min	—	01-625 8080
Bank of Scotland	5.56	5.71	4.57	2,500 min	—	01-626 8060
Barclays High Rate Dep	5.56	5.61	4.49	500 min	—	01-626 1567
	5.76	5.87	4.70	10,000 min	—	01-626 1567
	5.66	5.81	4.65	2,500 min	—	01-588 2777
Britannia High Interest	5.50	5.64	4.51	2,000 min	—	01-741 4841
Chelbank Money Mkt Plust	6.75	6.98	5.58	5,000 min	—	01-236 8391
HFC Trust & Savings	5.56	5.71	4.57	2,500 min	—	01-389 3381
Wenderson Cheque A/c	5.56	5.71	4.57	1,000 min	—	01-389 3321
L & G High Int Deposit	5.63	5.70	4.56	5,000 min	3 mth	01-407 1000
Lyons Investment A/c†	6.00	6.00	4.90	5,000 min	—	01-407 1000
Lloyds HICA†	5.40	5.60	4.48	1,000 min	—	01-626 4588
M&G HICA	6.20	6.30	4.24	2,000 min	—	0742 52890
Midland HICA	5.50	5.61	4.49	10,000 min	—	0742 52890
	5.38	5.48	4.38	2,000 min	—	01-726 1000
Nat West Special Reserve	5.50	5.61	4.49	10,000 min	—	01-726 1000
	6.04	6.18	4.94	1,000 min	1 mth	01-236 8962
Oppenheimer Money Mngmt	6.14	6.29	5.03	10,000 min	1 mth	01-236 8962
" " "	6.04	6.18	4.94	2,500 min	—	01-626 8771
Phillips & Drew HICA	5.56	5.61	5.21	1,000 min	—	061-9236011
Provincial Trust Chq A/c	5.56	5.58	4.54	2,500 min	—	031-5570201
Royal Bk of Scot Prem A/c	5.50	5.65	4.52	500 min	—	0708 76896
S & P Funds	5.56	5.61	4.49	2,500 min	—	0705 82773
Schroder Wagg	5.95	6.11	4.89	2,500 min	—	0272 732243
Tyndall Call	5.76	5.87	4.70	2,500 min	—	0272 732243
Tyndall 7-day	5.76	5.87	4.70	2,500 min	7 day	0272 732243
UDT 7-day	5.08	5.08	4.85	5,000 min	—	01-453 4661
	5.80	5.86	4.77	2,000 min	1 mth	0752 201181

NATIONAL SAVINGS							
Ordinary A/c ¹	5.00	3.75	3.00	1-10,000	8 day	041-5494555	
Investment A/c ²	8.50	6.38	5.10	5-100,000	1 mth	041-5494555	
Income Bond ³	10.50	7.88	6.30	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 96151	
Deposit Bond ⁴	10.50	7.88	6.30	100-100,000	3 mth	041-5494555	
33rd Issue Cert ⁵ †	7.00	7.00	7.00	25-1,000	6 day	091-3864900	
Yearly Plan†	7.00	7.00	7.00	20-200/mth	14 day	091-3864900	
General Extension Rate†	5.78	5.76	5.76				
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS							
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	6.00	1,000 min	1 yr	0992 31971	
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	6.00	1,000 min	2 yrs	0992 31971	
General Portfolio	7.50	7.50	6.00	1,000 min	4 yrs	0992 31971	
American Life	7.50	7.50	6.00	0 min	4 yrs	01-680 6000	
Time Assurance	6.00	6.00	6.40	1,000 min	5 yrs	061-624-7299	
FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS							
Sterling	7.48	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	
US Dollar	6.02	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	
Yen	2.78	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	
D Mark	2.31	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	
French Franc	6.83	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	
Swiss Franc	0.80	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	
*Interest taxable, paid gross † Tax free ‡ Higher returns for larger balances † Societies chosen based on highest interest pressures, higher rates can sometimes be gained from smaller societies - contact Chase & Verrill Moneyline 01-404 5555 † Additional holdings up to \$5,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates † Charge for							

● Mortgage rates are still tumbling. A few lenders, such as Nationwide Anglia, have still not announced a rate change, but they say an announcement is due next week. Building society savers' rates have not yet moved.

The National Savings general extension rate comes down from 5.76 per cent to 5.01 on May 1. Investors should switch money out of this account, which will be uncompetitive. The 33rd

Normally the maximum investment in this issue is just £1,000, but holders of mature National Savings products can switch up to £5,000 into it as well as the £1,000 maximum for new purchases.

Barclays is dropping the minimum investment in the high-interest account from £1,000 to £500 until June 30. Investors will continue to get the higher rate until the end of the year as the rate falls in the new issue.

BOND INVESTMENTS														
Bid Offer Chang Yld					Bid Offer Chang Yld					Bid Offer Chang Yld				
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS					ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE					ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS					New High Payout, Liverpool LSE 3-6					New High Payout, Liverpool LSE 3-6				
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS					60-1-257 4450					60-1-257 4450				
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS					Rural Life Unit Linked					Rural Life Unit Linked				
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS					Managed Fund					Managed Fund				
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS					Sund Fund					Sund Fund				
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS					Property Fund					Property Fund				
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS					Property Fund					Property Fund				
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DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	SAVE & PROSPER		
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	1. Fixed Income	407.5	473.8
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	2. Growth	240.1	254.1
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	3. Global Equity	137.2	143.2
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	4. Private Equity	70.2	69.8
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	5. Real Estate	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	6. Hedge Funds	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	7. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	8. Total	1000.0	1000.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	9. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	10. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	11. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	12. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	13. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	14. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	15. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	16. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	17. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	18. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	19. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	20. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	21. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	22. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	23. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	24. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	25. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	26. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	27. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	28. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	29. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	30. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	31. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	32. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	33. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	34. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	35. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	36. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	37. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	38. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	39. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	40. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	41. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	42. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	43. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	44. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	45. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	46. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	47. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	48. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	49. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	50. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	51. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	52. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	53. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	54. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	55. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	56. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	57. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	58. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	59. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	60. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	61. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	62. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	63. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	64. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	65. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	66. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	67. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	68. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	69. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	70. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	71. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	72. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	73. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	74. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	75. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	76. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	77. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	78. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	79. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	80. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	81. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	82. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	83. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	84. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	85. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	86. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	87. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	88. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	89. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	90. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	91. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	92. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	93. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	94. Other	10.0	10.0
DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	95. Other	10.0	10.0
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DO Account	204.4	-0.1	Agribusiness Fund	510.3	+0.1	100. Other	10.0	10.0

Mortgage rates are still tumbling. A few lenders, such as Nationwide Anglia, have still not announced a rate change, but they say an announcement is due next week. Building society savers' rates have not yet moved.

The National Savings general extension rate comes down from 5.76 per cent to 5.01 on May 1. Investors should watch money out of this account, which will be uncompetitive. The 33rd Issue pays 7 per cent tax-free over five years.

Normally the maximum investment in this issue is just £1,000, but holders of mature National Savings products can switch up to £5,000 into it as well as the £1,000 maximum for new purchases.

Barclays is dropping the minimum investment in the high-interest account from £1,000 to £500 until June 30. Investors will continue to get the higher rate until the end of the year as long as £500 remains in the account.

Retail Prices Index (Mar '87 to Mar '88)	+3.5%
Mortgage rate*	9.25%-10%
Bank base rate	8%
Bank prime overdraft rate*	11-15.5% APR
Personal loan rate*	19% APR
Credit card rate*	23.1% APR
Hire purchase rate*	26% APR
Bank deposit account	2%
Building society ordinary account	4%
High-interest cheque account*	5.75%
Holiday exchange rates*	
Spanish peseta	201.36
French franc	10.42
Greek drachma	238.59
Italian lire	2237

* Typical rates
* £1,000 over 12 months
* APR = annual percentage rate

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TSB	8.00%
Citibank NA	8.00%

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Battle of the lenders

Mortgage borrowers must be wondering what hit them last week. Only two or three weeks ago home loan rates were well above 10 per cent. Suddenly they are down by 0.5 percentage points or more, with some as much as 1 point lower.

The banks and building societies have again become locked in one of their competitive, skirmishes, which is promoting the downward spiral of lending rates.

The building societies are flush with money to lend at the moment as retail depositors know the stock market and put their money where they think it is safe. What is more, the spring and summer are upon us.

After base rates fell from 8.5 to 8 per cent the Halifax and the Abbey National led the way with a restrained mortgage rate cut of about 0.5 points to 9.75 per cent. But that gave everyone else a target to shoot at. Within hours, the Woolwich and the National Westminster Bank had dropped to 9.5 per cent.

Several smaller companies went even further. First Mortgage Securities — one of the new breed of small specialized mortgage lenders — cut to 8.65 per cent and United Bank of Kuwait fell to 9.15 per cent.

Some borrowers may prefer Libor loan

The Nationwide Anglia will introduce a new lower rate on May 1. In the meantime, the society has brought out one of the increasingly popular Libor-linked mortgage schemes. Any new or existing borrower can apply for one. The idea is that the loan is linked to the three-month London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor), the wholesale money market rate to which much commercial lending is also linked.

Under this plan the borrower pays 1.25 points above this rate, reviewed every three months. Libor mortgages are cheaper under certain conditions. There is no constant and certain relationship between a building society's ordinary mortgage rate, and the money market rates from which it funds some of its lending. Just recently, for example, bank base rates have dropped sharply and mortgage rates have taken several weeks to catch up.

In the short term, borrowers who believe base rates will fall still further might feel more comfortable with a Libor-linked loan to reflect the fall

faster than the ordinary mortgage rate.

But while that works over three or four months, what is the outlook over a period of years? According to the Nationwide Anglia, someone taking out a Libor-linked loan two or three years ago would have had smaller repayments than someone on a conventional mortgage.

The societies have clearly found that they can get away with charging more than 1.25 points over money market rates for mortgages even in the current competitive market. There is little reason why that should change.

And canny borrowers who shop around should be able to find even better offers. The Nationwide Anglia's 1.25-point margin over Libor is about in the middle of the range of those lenders offering such loans. Citibank, for instance, is offering one at only 1 point above Libor.

But the Libor loan is only one of a range of mortgages that societies such as the Nationwide Anglia now offer, from pension-linked mortgages to low-start and other more complex schemes.

One of the most interesting of the Nationwide's new range aimed at existing home-owners is the Flexible Mortgage Plan, allowing borrowers to take a repayment holiday of up to five years. They can make up the difference later by extending the loan. This gives people starting families or taking time off to study a chance to lift the financial burden at least temporarily.

Borrowers should as usual not forget to look carefully at the annual percentage rates — the amount you actually pay after the compounding effect of the interest payments is taken into account. Not all lenders calculate interest in the same way, so some odd anomalies appear. NatWest, for example, calculates the interest on an annual basis, as do most building societies. This means that its APRs tend to be high even if the nominal rate looks quite low.

But Barclays and most of the other clearing banks calculate interest monthly, making their APRs lower. The result? NatWest is offering mortgages at a nominal 9.5 per cent but the APR is actually 10.1 per cent. Barclays is offering mortgages at a nominal 9.75 per cent but do not be fooled — its APR is 10.1 per cent, exactly the same as NatWest's.

Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

Last-gasp gas deal

If, despite the reminders, you still have not paid the third call on your British Gas shares, do not despair. Although most brokers will not deal in the partly paid shares, there is still a way to sell without paying more money.

Debenhams Investment Services has struck a deal with the Department of Energy whereby those who have not sent off their payments can sell the shares by sending

their call notice, with an instruction to sell to Department Gas, Debenhams Investment Services, 214 Oxford Street, London W1N 9DF.

Alternatively, you can go into the share shops in the London or Bristol branches of Debenhams or Harvey Nichols of Knightsbridge. Inquiries should be made to 01-439 0306. The service is likely to exist for only a few more days.

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Can you name the five businessmen pictured here from the clues provided? If you can, you could win £1,000 of unit trusts donated by Equitable Life.

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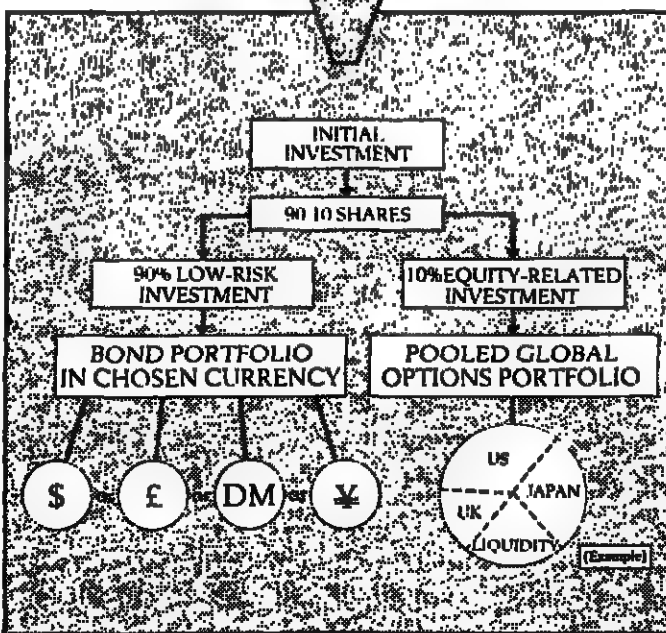
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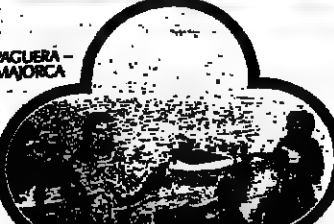
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Nurses' housing hopes

Nurses are still trying to assess whether or not their pay award announced this week will be enough to get them on the house-buying ladder.

Some nurses will get an increase of only 4 per cent while others will get a huge 60 per cent rise in their pay. This could make all the difference between being trapped in rented accommodation and being able to afford a mortgage with one of the special schemes around at the moment.

Georgia Diebel, aged 23, a first-year staff nurse at King's College Hospital, London, earns a basic staff nurse salary, which is £7,300, or in her case £8,230 including London weighting. Her take-home pay varies from £512 to £549 a month depending on how many night shifts and weekends she has worked.

She lives in a rented house near the hospital with three other women and hopes to be able to get a mortgage with help from her family.

She says: "Even with the increase, there's no chance of a staff nurse being able to afford a mortgage on her own. The only way I could do it is with help from my family or maybe by sharing."

As an acting senior nurse at Westminster Hospital, a Lon-

don teaching hospital, Laura Savage is going to reap the fullest benefits from the Government's pay awards. Nurses such as Laura Savage and Georgia Diebel, who work in London, are going to be significantly better off.

If the award is to staunch the haemorrhaging of nursing staff out of London's hospitals, the big question is whether they will enable nurses to get a toe on the housing ladder.

For a senior nurse such as Laura there is good news. An acting senior nurse is one grade up from a sister and two up from a staff nurse. Three new bands have been introduced for ward sisters in inner London, going from £12,048 to £17,238. If Laura finds herself on the second band, she could well see her salary rise by 60 per cent.

It will not be easy in London

It is an academic question for Laura as she and her husband moved out of London to Kent in order to buy a house. They pay just under £500 a month in mortgage repayments on a house they bought for £75,000. It remains to be seen whether

the pay awards of her junior colleagues — staff nurses at the Westminster now start at £9,677 on the lower scale and end on £12,538 on the upper scale — are big enough to enable them to join her in the housing market.

With the average two-bedroom Victorian terrace house in London now fetching £75,000 and rising, it is not going to be easy for newly enriched nurses in London. But at least it is no longer impossible.

Many of them will now look towards the cost-cutting Partnership Mortgage Scheme introduced for NHS employees in the London area by the Nationwide Anglia Building Society.

"We are not yet sure how the pay award will affect nurses in London," a spokesman for the society said. "But our basic response is that any increase must obviously help."

Under the scheme, NHS staff can borrow more than usual, and they pay a lower rate of interest — two-thirds of normal rate, at present 6.8 per cent rather than 10.3 per cent, although Nationwide Anglia is expected to cut its rates next week.

But to balance these concessions Nationwide Anglia

takes a share of the profits when the property is sold.

The amount that goes to the building society depends on what percentage the loan represented of the value of the property. For instance, if it was a 100 per cent loan, Nationwide Anglia takes half of the profit; on an 80 per cent loan the society would take 40 per cent of the profits.

Any increase in the value of the property above 15 per cent will be ignored, when the building society is taking its cut. And any improvements that increase the value of the property will be taken into account when dividing the spoils after a sale.

The monthly repayments on a maximum 100 per cent loan of £75,000 would be £485.53 a month. In the outer metropolitan area, the maximum is £60,000. If nurses take

Reward through commissions

the deferred capital repayment plan and pay the interest only on the loan during the first five years, the monthly repayments drop to £382.83.

Many nurses are considering teaming up with others to purchase a house jointly. One company, Property

Georgia Diebel helped

Home Share Club, of Pall Mall, London, is negotiating with Brighton Health Authority on a plan that gives mortgages of up to three times their individual incomes for up to four people. The interest rate will be 9.8 per cent. The offer would put the chance of buying a house within the range of most people on a modest income.

No charge would be made to staff for the service. Property Home Share Club would get their reward through commissions on endowment policies taken out on the mortgages.

The August deadline for joint purchase schemes to qualify for multiple tax relief is looming. At present, groups of people who team up to buy houses can each get tax relief on interest payments on mortgages up to £30,000. After the deadline, tax relief will be limited to £30,000 per property.

Peter Morris

Holding operation for finance A Day

From next Friday it will become a criminal offence to carry on an investment business without full or part authorization under the Financial Services Act.

But not all investment advisers still trading from next Friday will eventually become authorized by the Securities and Investments Board or one of its recognized self-regulatory organizations. And it will not be easy to tell at a glance which these are.

Because of the work involved in processing all applications for authorization by next Friday, A Day, firms that do not get full authorization from the relevant regulatory body but had applied for it by February 27 can trade with "interim" authorization. They will not necessarily get full approval, but in the best traditions of British justice firms are considered innocent until proved guilty.

Originally, the SIB had intended to insist that firms with interim authorization should make this plain by splashing their status across business literature.

But it was later decided that this was impracticable, as

some firms might get full authorization in a week or two. There is some comfort to be drawn from the knowledge that although companies with interim authorization have not passed the ultimate test for investor protection they will be subject to the rules of the organization to which they have applied from A Day.

The SIB has estimated that there are likely to be about 5,000 companies that will be trading under interim authorization. The honeymoon period, in which those with interim authorization need not declare the fact, will not continue indefinitely. Those that have still not received full authorization by July 1 or the date when the competition scheme comes into effect — if that is later, and it almost certainly will be — will have to disclose their status.

In the meantime, investors can check the status of their adviser on the SIB's public register. But firms with interim authorization can ask to be kept off the list.

For information about registration, write to the SIB at 3 Royal Exchange Buildings, London EC3 3VNL (01-959 3632), or consult Prestel.

Pensions pitfalls

A pensions lawyer believes insurance companies, banks and building societies will find it nearly impossible to sell personal pensions to members of company pension schemes and stay within the law.

The law referred to by Robin Ellison, a council member of the National Association of Pension Funds, is the Financial Services Act, which tells salesmen that they must know their clients and give them best advice.

Personal pensions salesmen will have to know so much about the company pension scheme, such as its history of benefits and expenses ratio, that they will find it almost impossible to justify advice to take up a personal pension and leave the company scheme.

"If an employee is sold a personal pension scheme and it later transpires that the company scheme would have been a better deal, then insurance companies are likely to suffer a series of complaints, and possibly litigation, which they may find difficult to defend," Mr Ellison told 500 pension fund managers at the NAPF's conference.

His company has produced a rather cheeky certificate designed for companies to hand out to company pension scheme members who are considering leaving for a personal pension. This "protection certificate" is headed: "Do not sign up for a personal pension unless the salesman or intermediary has signed this certificate."

This asks him to state that he has examined the company pension scheme, and in particular growth, benefits structure and overheads, and considered the financial needs of the applicant's family before coming to the conclusion that a personal pension is preferable.

It also asks him to state: "My commission/bonus in the first year from this sale will be £ and in subsequent years will be £ p.a."

The NAPF, which represents 1,300 of the largest company pension schemes, covering more than 11 million employees, is stepping up its "Look Before You Leap" campaign.



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FAMILY MONEY **هكزامن الأهل**

Watching out and paying less

Large discounts on household insurance are being offered to members of Britain's 50,000 or more neighbourhood watch schemes. These self-help organizations aimed at crime prevention have had a patchy success record and there are hopes that the newly announced discounts will make them more attractive.

The discounts are available through the 600 insurance brokers belonging to the Institute of Insurance Brokers (IIB), the registered brokers' professional organization. Cover is underwritten by The Swiss Insurance Company.

Under the scheme a neighbourhood watch member living in one of the riskiest inner city areas, including most of London and parts of Manchester and Liverpool, would pay £10 per £1,000 for contents cover, compared with £11.40 for a non-member. This reduces the annual bill

Building rates discounted too

for cover on £20,000 worth of contents by nearly £30.

A typical rate for inner cities charged by other insurers is £15 per £1,000 worth of cover, so it would be possible for neighbourhood watch members in one of the high-risk areas to reduce their premiums by more than 30 per cent by switching to the IIB scheme.

Someone living in an area classified as least risky under the IIB scheme, typically, the countryside and medium-sized or provincial towns, would pay £2.50 per £1,000 against a standard rate of £3. In the next band up, suburbs affected by occasional burglaries, the rates are £4 for members and £4.92 for non-members, while in the next tier up, the second most risky areas, the figures are £7.50 against £9.60.

The IIB says it will be possible for an individual neighbourhood watch scheme to be moved to a cheaper band if its members prove that it has a lower record for claims than other areas in its band. This means members of a watch scheme covering just two or three streets or a single housing estate may qualify for a cheaper rate.

As an extreme example, if members of a scheme in the



centre of London managed to reduce claims so much that they qualified for a re-rating to the least risky area, they would reduce their premiums to a quarter of their previous level.

Members of neighbourhood watches also qualify for a discount on buildings premiums. This is £1.20 per £1,000 for centrally heated homes or £1.30 for others, against typical figures in the industry of £1.80 or £2 per £1,000 of rebuilding costs.

The neighbourhood watch scheme is modelled on an American idea for crime prevention. It relies on vigilance by neighbours in reporting suspicious events. The results of a study of two London schemes commissioned by the Home Office and released last May said the incidence of crime increased while the areas were being monitored.

Alan Blows, chairman of the co-ordinating body for the 8,200 London watches, said

the scheme to which he belonged had cut local crime by 80 per cent at one point.

But neighbourhood watch was suffering from an image problem and this needed to be changed. People think the scheme is about "old ladies peeping from behind their curtains".

Andrew Paddock, the IIB's director-general, said yesterday that some watches had had "excellent" results. Strovers, the company that will administer the new IIB scheme, said there had been a "very significant" reduction in claims from watch members compared with those from non-members.

John Brownhill, managing director of London insurance brokers Brownhill Morris, which already run a discount scheme for neighbourhood watch members, says it has also been successful in reducing claims. Neighbourhood watch members get a reduction when they join the

eral Accident, is also low — £1.60 per £1,000, coming down to £1.20 with no-claims bonuses.

Brownhill's scheme counts all types of claims on policies in assessing eligibility for its bonus, whereas the IIB scheme looks at only crime-related ones.

Royal Insurance is one of the few large companies to offer an incentive for watch members. Its Homeshield contents policy launched in 1986 offers them 5 per cent off contents premiums in addition to 15 per cent for a full security "work-out", including fitting of any devices recommended by a consultant, and 5 per cent for an alarm fitted by an approved company.

Royal's standard rates range from £3.20 per £1,000 in its lowest-rated areas to £15 per £1,000 in the toughest inner city areas.

Variation from place to place

Legal & General offers discounts of up to 20 per cent if you take certain household security precautions, but it is wary about doing anything specially for neighbourhood watch members.

"The quality of these organizations varies from place to place and depends on the skills of the individuals involved," says Gerald Eaton, the marketing development manager. "We have no statistical evidence to justify any movement in our rates for neighbourhood watch."

Maria Scott

For the address of your nearest IIB broker, write to the institute at Barclays Bank Chambers, College Street, Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 0NW (0933 410003).

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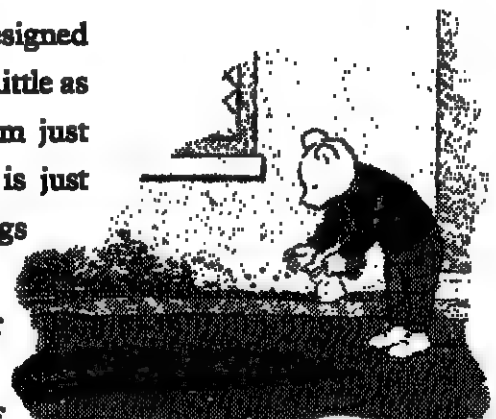
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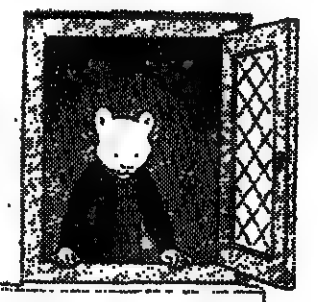
I'll dig the ground up with my spade,
So fertile earth I will have made.



The more I water, the more they grow,
So I reap more of what I sow.



My seeds I'll plant and this I know,
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Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 29).

Stock	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+4	+4	+4	+4			
2	+5	+8	+3	+2	+5		
3	+4	+5	+6	+5	+6		
4	+8	+6	+2	+4	+4		
5	+5	+5	+3	+6	+3		
6	+8	+8	+3	+5	+4		
7	+5	+5	+4	+2	+6		
8	+3	+5	+7	+3	+5		
9	+7	+5	+3	+3	+4		
10	+6	+4	+5	+5	+3		
11	+4	+6	+7	+2	+6		
12	+5	+4	+3	+7	+5		
13	+7	+7	+3	+3	+5		
14	+5	+5	+6	+2	+7		
15	+6	+5	+2	+1	+6		
16	+7	+5	+2	+3	+3		
17	+4	+5	+5	+7	+4		
18	+4	+5	+7	+2	+6		
19	+4	+5	+5	+2	+6		
20	+5	+5	+3	+2	+4		
21	+5	+4	+3	+5	+3		
22	+7	+5	+2	+5	+5		
23	+5	+7	+4	+2	+6		
24	+4	+5	+5	+5	+3		
25	+7	+6	+2	+3	+3		
26	+3	+5	+5	+5	+5		
27	+6	+4	+3	+5	+5		
28	+8	+6	+3	+1	+4		
29	+5	+5	+6	+2	+7		
30	+8	+5	+2	+4	+3		
31	+7	+5	+2	+3	+4		
32	+4	+6	+6	+5	+6		
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34	+5	+5	+4	+5	+3		
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36	+4	+6	+5	+2	+6		
37	+8	+5	+2	+3	+4		
38	+5	+7	+3	+2	+5		
39	+6	+4	+4	+3	+4		
40	+7	+7	+2	+2	+3		
41	+4	+4	+3	+7	+5		
42	+5	+5	+3	+2	+3		
43	+7	+5	+3	+5	+5		
44	+5	+4	+6	+2	+6		

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Rupert in the City

Rupert Bear, that venerable cartoon pensioner, will act as mascot for Britain's first unit trust specifically designed to attract savings for children.

The new fund - the Rupert Bear trust, launched by MIM Britannia this week - may not take pocket money of 50p a week, but will allow children, or more probably their parents, godparents and families, to invest as little as a £50 lump sum or to start monthly savings plans for £10 a week.

The new fund will be almost as cautious as the Highway Code. Even if the managers do not guarantee to stop, look and listen before every decision they make, they will invest only in the huge companies whose shares are covered by the FT-SE 100 index. The stress will be on

long-term growth to provide an ostrich-sized nest egg perhaps on the child's 18th or 21st birthday.

Banks and building societies actually aim to attract children's own savings, whereas MIM Britannia is concerned with savings for children, and therefore an adult market.

All the same, the standard gimmicks are there. If you want a "free" black and yellow Rupert scarf for the child, just invest £400 in the new fund. If you up the stakes to £800, there will be a teddy of Rupert himself. Finally, the child will get both if you hit the jackpot with £1,200.

If it is beyond you, you can always buy them at £5 and £10 respectively.

Bank and building society



A gift for Rupert: part of the new unit trust fund's publicity

accounts may be useful as a way of teaching children thrift on their birthday and pocket money finance, but on past form unit trusts are far more likely to provide worthwhile money over 10 years or more.

The Rupert Trust is a UK growth fund under its glossy wrapping, and figures from the Unit Trust Association show a dramatic contrast between the fortunes of investors who have put money into funds of this kind in the past, and those who have left money with building societies.

Anyone who put £1,000 into a UK growth trust 10 years ago and whose results were absolutely in the middle of the performance tables would now have a nest egg worth £5,068. Money in a typical building society share account, where all the interest has been re-invested, would now be worth £2,083, or well under half as much.

Clearly there can be no guarantee of how unit trusts will do in the future. Banks and building societies are not particularly good places for children to hold money anyway. Tax-paid interest may be very convenient if you pay tax, but the system ensures that the Government deducts tax that very few children owe, and then refuses them any refunds.

INVC, the National Savings Investment account, is a better idea for short-term money, as it provides its 8.5 per cent interest without deductions. So in this context Rupert Bear has economic logic, as well as Tiger Lily by his side - and charges for the new fund are in line with those elsewhere, though the minimum sums it will take are far smaller.

Rupert Bear himself first appeared in 1925, so he seems less up-to-the-minute than up-to-the-century. But he may still evoke a mood of rosy nostalgia among people who grew up with Rupert as a household name. That is just the condition for inducing generosity.

Tom Tickell

Now the Brits get bonuses in the air



Boredom on board: In Britain the relief can now be free flight tickets for the loyal traveller

For years European airlines have relied on the quality of their in-flight catering and vintage wines to secure customer loyalty. Now Northwest Airlines has brought free flight tickets, so common in North America, to the UK.

With competition from the European Community heating up in the airline world, greater incentives seem likely to be the order of the day. It is possible that such schemes as free flight tickets will attract the attention of the Inland Revenue, which may regard such a "facility" as a taxable perk. However, the red tape in tracking down such benefits in a wealth of travel agents' papers may continue to work to the loyal traveller's benefit.

While motorists collect coupons when they buy petrol, airline passengers collect credit miles that can be traded in for free air travel. When the traveller joins the Northwest "Worldperks" scheme, for instance, he has 5,000 miles credited as a starter bonus. On a flight from Gatwick to Boston return, the traveller would have a credit of 6,566 miles.

When 20,000 miles have been clocked up, the airline gives a complimentary round-trip on its US and Canadian network. For 40,000 miles you get a free transatlantic round-trip ticket.

If you fly business - sometimes called executive - class, an extra 25 per cent of the miles flown is added, while

first-class qualifies for a 50 per cent bonus. At present Northwest is offering a free round-trip ticket to Hawaii for just 60,000 credit miles.

Many American airlines offer similar packages to US citizens and are quietly opening up to UK travellers. Continental and Piedmont give 2,500 credit miles on starting, TWA awards 3,000, and Delta and PanAm give 5,000. United grants 3,000 but adds a further 2,000 when the first flight is purchased.

Not to be outdone, Virgin Atlantic's Upper Class to Miami (£651 each way) and Newark, New Jersey (£646 each way), plus £15 airport taxes in both cases, gives a free economy ticket worth £119. £269 that is valid for 12 months. However, reservations may be made only on the day of departure at peak times.

Many schemes also give credits for hotel bookings if they are made when air tickets are bought. Northwest gives 500 credit miles for making a booking at the same time as ordering the air ticket.

United Airlines does not fly across the Atlantic and therefore works its scheme through such carriers as British Airways and KLM.

A key element here is the point for ticket purchase and flight. If it is in Europe, the linked carriers have a far less generous allowance. For every 60,000 miles, KLM will give one economy return ticket across to the United States but BA requires 75,000 miles to be built up.

Apart from free travel, the airlines will upgrade a class for frequent flyers. When 10,000 miles are reached with United and TWA, passengers may move from economy to executive or from executive to first class. Lufthansa grants an upgrading after 20,000 miles on its transatlantic flights. The mileage applying at Air France and BA are 30,000 and 40,000 respectively.

Children also qualify for the full credit miles scheme. Usually it is only "fly-drive" special economy packages that do not attract this valuable perk.

Chauffeur-driven cars to take travellers to the airport are another facility offered by an increasing number of airlines. They include United Arab Emirates, Virgin's Upper Class and Qantas (with complimentary hotel accommodation at Heathrow for those on the early flight to Sydney and Melbourne).

A helicopter service is free through BA, PanAm, Swissair and TWA to Manhattan from New York.

Conal Gregory
Northwest Airlines, 49 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3FE

Aids insurance warning

Insurance companies will get much tougher about the people they take into group schemes, possibly departing from previous practice and demanding a medical on every individual.

This warning comes from the actuaries. The Wyatt Company, providing more evidence of the effect of Aids on life insurance.

In the past fortnight life offices have begun to raise the premiums on term insurance for individuals - the simplest form of life cover, which pays out only on death.

But according to Wyatt, a premium increase is on the way for group schemes, often offered by companies to employees as a perk at rates lower than individuals would pay if they approached the life company alone. This would also affect the cost of group life cover linked to a company pension scheme.

Wyatt says that although this will not touch pension benefits or the cost of buying

benefits, the cost of any additional life cover will inevitably increase. Employers will probably bear this extra cost.

"At present, group life is a very competitive area, and the relatively low rates offered by life offices will undoubtedly be increased," says Wyatt. And on schemes in which rates are guaranteed the guarantee periods are likely to be reduced to one year or two years.

Now that employees have the right to opt into and out of company pensions, the underwriters may want to look twice at those returning to a scheme after an absence.

Wyatt says there is also evidence of a tougher approach to permanent health insurance, which provides cover against long-term illness. Some insurers may exclude cover for Aids for all new members.

"There is no doubt," warns Wyatt, "that if you are considering taking out any form of

term assurance, whether standing on its own, or linked to a mortgage, or for disability or permanent health insurance, you should not delay your application."

Meanwhile, as widely predicted, Sun Alliance, which underwrites about 10 per cent of term assurance policies for individuals, announced increases this week in premiums for men and women. For men, the increases put premiums up by more than 150 per cent in some cases.

For example, a 29-year-old wanting average cover of £65,000 will be paying £15.04 on a 15-year term, a 156 per cent increase. For women, the average increase is 25 per cent.

Sun Alliance's move follows Zurich Life's announcement last week that it was increasing its rates by as much as 300 per cent for men. Commercial Union is expected to make an announcement next week.

Maria Scott

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

That which is altogether just shall
about follow, that thou mayest live,
and inherit the life which the Lord
Thy God giveth thee.
Deuteronomy 16:20

BIRTHS

BARRETT - On April 21st in
Canterbury, to Gillian (née Phillips)
and Shaun, a daughter, Charlotte
Louise.

BUCKWELL - On April 20th 1988 at
Gusford, to Anne (née Cline) and
David, a daughter, Alexandra Paige.

BUFFONE - On April 4th, 1988, at the
Portland Hospital, to Barbara (née
Bergsjo) and Steven, a son, Douglas
James.

FRAYNE - On April 20th to Maryann
and James, a son, Alexander
Charles.

GRANAM - On April 19th, to Suzi (née
O'Donnell) and Andrew, a daughter,
Lillian; a son, Alexander.

GRANT - On April 19th, at Humana
Hospital, Westbury, to Anne (née
Whitney) and Kenneth, a son, Alexander
Orlando, a brother for
Orlando.

HOLLAND - On March 29th, to
Denny (née Higley) and Peter, a
son, Daniel; a daughter, a brother for
Felicity and Charlotte.

KATZMAN - On April 20th, to
John and Peter, a daughter,
Miranda; a son, a sister for
Miranda and August.

NICHOLSON - On April 20th, to
Orlando and Timothy, a son,
Richard Charles David.

OWEN - On April 17th, in San
Francisco, to Alexandra (née
O'Donnell) and Bruce, a
daughter, Katherine.

WILKINSON - On April 20th, to
Celia and Eric, a daughter,
Natalie.

MARRIAGES

CLARK-FENNEL - On April 22nd,
1988 at Guildford, to Candice A. Clark
to Simon C. Fennell.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

AUDSLEY - On April 23rd 1938
at Church of Holy Trinity, Chatham
Road, John to Doris, now at
Drayton, Portsmouth.

PARKER-SLOAN - On April 23rd
1938, Kenneth Parker to Freda
Sloan, Love, congratulations and
thanks, Maria, Tim, Daniel,
Michael and Matthew.

ROBINSON-SMITH - On April 23rd,
1938, to Robert and Dorothy,
Southampton, congratulations to
Robert and Dorothy.

DEATHS

ANDERSON - On April 22nd 1988, at
home in Mid Hill, Andrew, aged 95
years, a short illness, after a
long and happy life. He was
loved by all his family and
friends. Buried in the family
grave, St. Andrew's Church,
Mid Hill, on April 23rd 1988.
Funeral service at 11.30 am on
Friday, April 23rd, at St. Andrew's
Church, Mid Hill. With cremation
which will be held at a later date.

ANNES - On April 20th 1988,
peacefully at his home in
Lymington, Hampshire, aged 80
years, after a long and happy
life. He was loved by all his
family and friends. Buried in the
family grave, St. Andrew's Church,
Mid Hill, on April 23rd 1988.
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BROWN - On April 19th, peacefully
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IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

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WANTED

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FOR SALE

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OPERA & BALLET

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Reputation protects plastic lemon

On the appeal, four essential issues had emerged:

- 1 Had the plaintiffs established that the particular get-up of JIF lemons had become associated in the minds of the public exclusively with its business?
- 2 Did the second and third defendants fraudulently intend by the get-up of the Mark I, Mark II and Mark III lemons to induce members of the public to believe that their lemons were the products of the manufacturer of JIF lemons?
- 3 Even if there was no such fraudulent intention, did the get-up of the defendants' lemons amount to a representation that their lemons were the products of the manufacturer of JIF lemons?
- 4 Was it likely that a substantial number of members of the public would be misled by the get-up of the defendants' lemons into believing that their lemons were the products of the manufacturer of JIF?

If the answer to issues (1) (3) and (4) was in the affirmative then, in accordance with the established principles of the law relating to passing off, the plaintiffs would succeed and the appeal would fail. The relevance of issue (2) was that an affirmative answer to it would assist the plaintiffs on issue (3).

The first requirement in a passing-off action based on the get-up of the plaintiffs' goods was that the plaintiffs should have such a reputation in the goods that the get-up was distinctive of them and recognized as being so by a substantial number of the relevant members of the public.

J. B. Williams Co v H. Bromley & Co Ltd (1990) 26 RPC 765 and **Payton & Co Ltd v Snelling, Lampard & Co Ltd** (1990) 17 FSR 260 were clear authority for the proposition that a trader who introduced what he claimed to be a get-up of his goods in an original form could not claim an interest of a proprietary nature in those features of the get-up which were common to the trade.

The line of authority illustrated by those cases might have been of assistance to the defendants if it could truly have been said that, as a matter of fact, the lemon shape and colour of the JIF plastic container were features common to the trade.

However, the judge found as a fact that the JIF lemon was a fact of the JIF lemon was in common use in the trade.

Even assuming that the lemon colour and shape of the container of the JIF lemon were to be regarded as descriptive of the contents of the container, the shape and colour of the JIF plastic container were well capable in law of becoming so associated with the products of the plaintiffs by use over a period of time that they acquired a secondary meaning as indicating the products of the plaintiffs and of no other trader.

Also, even assuming that the colour and shape of the container were to be regarded as having a function to perform (by indicating its contents), that did not preclude the plaintiffs as a matter of law from having acquired the exclusive right to the particular get-up of its JIF lemons, which his Lordship considered included their colour and shape.

In the light of the authorities, including *Bromley, Payton, Reddaway v Banham* (1896) AC 199, *Cellular Clothing Co Ltd v Maxton & Murray* (1899) AC 326, *William Edge & Sons Ltd v William Nicolls & Sons Ltd* (1911) RPC 582 and *Jarman & Co Ltd v Karger Ltd* (1917) FSR 260, his Lordship would reject Mr Hobbs' submission that the plaintiffs could not, as a matter of law, have established a proprietary right, by way of reputation and attendant goodwill, in the particular get-up of the JIF lemon; and his Lordship would regard such get-up as including the colour and shape of the JIF lemon.

Having dealt with the points of law to which issue (1) gave rise, his Lordship said that in relation to that issue the factual position was clear. The judge found as a fact that many housewives understood JIF to be a brand of lemon juice made by a particular manufacturer as opposed to a mere generic name. There was no reason to interfere with his findings of fact in that respect.

But, notwithstanding that the reputation of the plaintiffs attached to the JIF lemon, there would be nothing to prevent other traders from selling plastic lemons containing lemon juice provided that they distinguished their lemons by the shape, size and colour or by other means from the JIF lemon sufficiently to prevent potential customers from being misled.

As to issue (2), the judge considered that the plaintiffs' intention simply with the decision on the part of the defendants to proceed with the launch of their lemons in the knowledge that persons would purchase the defendants' lemons under the impression that they were JIF lemons.

In the context of fraudulent intention the judge both misdirected himself and, unwittingly, gave a somewhat unfair summary of the effect of the relevant evidence.

On the authorities there could be no doubt that a trader who contemplated putting a new product on the market in competition with another trader, who had already entered the market, was entitled, when devising the get-up of his new product, to assume that members of the public would exercise a certain, if limited, degree of perspicacity in distinguishing the two products.

If he erroneously overestimated that degree he might well find himself in law liable for passing off, since fraudulent intent was not part of the cause of action for that tort.

If, however, his overestimate was a genuine one and he genuinely considered that those members of the public who exercised the relevant degree of perspicacity would not be deceived, he could not fairly be said to have had a fraudulent intention.

There was not sufficient evidence to justify a finding of fraudulent intent against any of the defendants and they would be absolved of that charge.

Turning to issues (3) and (4), his Lordship said that the question whether the use of a particular get-up for its goods amounted to a representation that his goods were the goods of another trader was essentially a question of fact for the judge.

In the light of the judge's findings of fact, the defendants were in some difficulty unless they could show that the judge, in making those findings, misdirected himself in law.

The judge found as a fact that under present conditions purchasers of plastic squeeze lemons paid virtually no attention to the label which they bore and, by inference, that as a matter of law the defendants were not entitled to expect the hypothetical purchasers, who had to be postulated for the purpose of the present passing-off action, to pay any attention to such labels.

Since the plaintiffs had over many years had a *de facto* monopoly in the UK market in the sale of small plastic squeeze lemons, it was natural that many members of the public could, without more, assume that the defendants' lemons, if they were put on the market, were the products of the manufacturer of JIF lemons, because they would not know of anyone else who was making small squeeze lemons.

Potential competitors in that class of goods might be advised to enter the field quickly, if at all, before a reputation had been established.

There were no grounds for interfering with the judge's conclusion that both issues (3) and (4) fell to be answered in the affirmative sense.

Accordingly, the plaintiffs succeeded on issues (1), (3) and (4) and the appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Glidewell delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Bingham agreed.

Solicitors: Beachcroft, Woodham Smith.

Judge should give reasons for not giving accomplice direction

Regina v Wilson

Where a trial judge directed not to give an accomplice direction to a jury, following the principle in *R v Joyce-Bendley* (1974) 59 Cr App R 51, he should state his reasons for that unusual course of action in open court after the retirement of the jury to consider their verdict and in the presence of the shorthand writer, in order to avoid later confusion.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Woolf, Mr Justice Farquharson and Mr Justice Tucker) so stated on April 14 in accepting the withdrawal of an appeal by Thomas Wilson following his conviction on eight counts concerning the importation, possession, and supply of controlled drugs at Liverpool Crown Court (Judge Morris Jones and a jury) on November 11, 1986 on which he had been sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and a fine of £10,000.

MR JUSTICE FARQUHARSON said that evidence given by an accomplice had been partly favourable to the appellant. The judge had decided, after consulting counsel, not to give an accomplice direction to the jury on the ground that to do so would be more harmful to the defence than if no direction had been given.

There had been no reference in the original notice of appeal to the evidence of the accomplice but the Registrar of Criminal Appeals had noted that the usual direction had not been given and the Court of Appeal had expected argument on that point. A further complication was that counsel for the appellant had not acted for him in the court below.

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Wigan likely to keep Hanley back for final

By Keith Macklin

Although Ellery Hanley is named in the Wigan squad of 18 for the Challenge Cup final at Wembley a week today, there are still doubts about his fitness, and it seems unlikely that the Wigan coach, Graham Lowe, will risk him in the premiership quarter-final against Warrington at Central Park tomorrow.

Ideally, players who will play in the Challenge Cup final are given a last run-out before the big game, but Hanley experiences pain from his damaged ribs, and another hard bang against Warrington could either put him out of the final or restrict his mobility. A pain-killing injection might yet be needed to enable Hanley to start at Wembley, although he has renowned recuperative powers.

With or without Hanley Wigan have a tough task against their neighbours Warrington, who have ended the season badly. Warrington slipped out of the top four, but they always lift their game in matches of this nature. Central Park, and they are not beyond springing a surprise, particularly if the minds of the Wigan players are on the big occasion next Saturday.

The champions, Wigan, go in pursuit of the end-of-season double with a home tie against the other Challenge Cup finalists, Halifax. Expected to make his debut will be the former Kelso and Scotland Rugby Union centre, Alan Tait, and he should make a winning start against a side who showed against Salford last week that Wembley is very much in their thoughts.

St Helens are smarting from their failures in the Challenge Cup and championship, and the coach Alex Murphy has called for a final big effort from his men to land the premiership. They are without the injured Australian full back, Phil Veivers, but should carry too much power at Knowsley Road against Castleford, who scraped into the top eight and conceded numerous points in doing so.

The fourth first division tie should be a typically close one. Rotherham, led by Bradford Northern and Leeds, with home advantage tilting the initiative towards Northern.

FENCING

England strengthened

England have entered the strongest team for all five divisions to defend their crown at the home international tournament in Cardiff this weekend, despite a strong Scottish men's épée team and Northern Ireland men's foil team boosted by the presence of Johnny Davis, the No. 3 international competitor (Lesley Drennan writes).

They are also confident enough to include a new cup in the men's foil, Mark Heath, aged 17, of Wembley.

Rallying veteran is ready to rough it in Amazon



Daunting competition: Gooding (right) and Jenkins before their Trans-Amazon trek

Trundle through the jungle

Gooding's new challenge

By Jeremy Hart

Agdez airport in the heart of the Sahara can barely accommodate a Boeing 727. Sandewit atop a barren outcrop in southern Algeria, the desolate airfield was the scene of the most extravagant rescue mission ever witnessed on the infamous Paris to Dakar rally.

Stranded in the inhospitable surroundings of the world's largest desert, Nabila Kashegi sent out a mayday message for her multi-millionaire father, Adnan Kashegi, after the Mitsubishi Pajero of Russell Gooding, of Wales, crashed at the very point of the 1986 rally. Gooding, aged 27, gave the adventure-loving Kashegi his first taste of Sahara as he rode shotgun in the back of his car on the world's toughest rally.

With the news that Kashegi's multi-millionaire chauffeur had retired from the rally, the multi-millionaire dispatched his luxury jet for Agdez to airlift his daughter's team back to Europe.

"It was amazing," Gooding said.

Gooding's only link with the jet set this time will be the previous owner of his highly tuned four-wheel-drive machine: Kashegi's Pajero. The rally team withdrew from the 1987 Paris to Dakar just a week before the start, had \$35,000 spent on the vehicle for his foray into the desert.

The inaugural Trans-Amazon Rally starts this weekend in Cartagena, Colombia, winds south through the Amazon basin, west into Peru, Chile, and then east towards Buenos Aires.

Gooding has been training furiously over the past few months to reach the fitness needed to endure the 6,000-mile rally. "We should have the best-prepared team," Gooding said confidently, "and I do like to think that we'll finish, but not everybody is as fit as I am."

Gooding's mother is disgusted at the thought of me doing the rally.

Sparkling Soviet Star eyes Miesque's title

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent



Cash Asmusen: glowing tribute to Soviet Star

Soviet Star outclassed his five opponents in the Trusthouse Forte Mile at Sandown Park yesterday and is now firmly on target to challenge Miesque for the title of champion European milner.

Watching true classic acceleration in the most exciting sight in racing and last season's French 2,000 Guineas winner certainly turned on the style after Cash Asmusen, had allowed the 5-4 favourite to stroll into the lead a furlong and a half from home.

Sprinting effortlessly clear, Sheikh Mohammed's Nureyev colt was then pushed out to beat Shady Heights by 2½ lengths with Ascot Knight finishing three-quarters of a length away third.

"He's as good a milner as I've ever seen and that includes 'L'Eclair' and 'Fast Topaz'," Asmusen said. "I was worried until I got him to settle and he started to listen to me. I hit the front too soon, but I didn't want to disappoint him."

Andre Fabre now plans a tilt at races like the Prix d'Espérance, the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot and ultimately the Breeders' Cup Mile at Churchill Downs in November. "He's also in the Eclipse," he said. "But I have to talk to Cash about possible stamina. I'm looking forward to taking on Miesque."

With 23 winners already to his credit this season, the reigning French champion trainer runs a possible Epsom Derby candidate, Drapace Tricolore, in the Prix de Guiche at Longchamp tomorrow. "He's still got a lot to prove," Fabre said. "But if he wins by five lengths, I'll then send him for the Prix Lupin."

The Aga Khan was also at Sandown to watch Kahyasi land

the 5-2 laid on the Ile de Bourbon colt in the Harvester Stakes.

Europe's most powerful owner-breeder could now possibly launch a triple attack on the Derby with Doyoun and Kahyasi having passed preliminary tests and with Sharazad due to show his paces in this afternoon's Guardian Classic Trial. "Kahyasi's very lazy and looked about him a bit," said Luca Cumani, "but we'll now go for the Chester Vase."

Kefauk, the conqueror of Undercut at Newmarket, goes to York for the Mecca-Dante Stakes. Cumani also has news of Then Again and Half A Year. Then Again will take on Soviet Star in the Queen Anne Stakes. Half A Year, who sustained a half-inch fracture of the cannon bone after winning last year's St. James's Palace Stakes, will be sent to Newbury on May 13 for the Locking Stakes.

Other classic news came from Jeremy Tree, who said that

Results from yesterday's three meetings

Sandown Park

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CRICKET: JEFFERIES AND TREMLETT FIGHT HARD BUT FAIL TO SAVE HAMPSHIRE FROM AN EMBARRASSING ROUT

Two days enough for Surrey to force easy victory

By John Woodcock

SOUTHAMPTON: Surrey (22pts) beat Hampshire (4) by nine wickets

The curious idea that four-day cricket will prove to be the panacea for the English game is looking for a way to be furthered by the conditions for Hampshire's match with Surrey. Far from a fourth day being put to good purpose, two were enough for Surrey to win by nine wickets. Yesterday Hampshire were bowled out for 91 and 198, and saved from an even heavier defeat only by a significantly robust partnership of 92 between Jeffries and Tremlett late in Hampshire's second innings.

Once Hampshire had failed by six runs to save the follow-on, Surrey were never likely to be any escape for them. Rather than getting slower and easier, the pitch continued to encourage extravagant movement off the seam. Until Jeffries and Tremlett came together, seldom an over passed without the bat being beaten a time or two. There was never the slightest question of Medcote, Surrey's only spinner, being asked to bowl.

Play took place mostly in bright light and with the ball being pitched well up. Had Hampshire been playing away from home they would have had some reason to object to the pitch; and if they could have had the morning over again they would not doubt have made a much bolder, more calculated effort to avoid following on.

As it was, Maru, the night watchman, had not added to his score when he was out after 55 minutes play, and when Peters dropped short to Robin Smith and Turner they both hooked him obligingly to long

leg, where the first of Clinton's two catches was a very good one.

Peters must be thinking it is all rather easier than playing for Sherborne, whose side he was in for three years, against Blundells. But he will find it a lot harder at the Oval on better pitches than this one. Aged 20, he is well, though not too heavily built, and in pace he is certainly on the fast side of medium.

Just as Surrey are fortunate to have two obviously promising bowlers in Peters and Martin Bicknell to bring on, so are the young men themselves in luck in having Geoff Arnold to coach them. When, half an hour before lunch yesterday, Surrey were able to enforce the follow-on, it was as though they had got to Wembley they were so delighted, Arnold not least.

Greig's contribution in the morning came through his accuracy. In Hampshire's second innings he was the most effective of the Surrey bowlers, his pace and method being just right for the conditions. And when Surrey were being held up for the first time, by Terry and Parks, Ward held a marvellously good low catch, left-handed, short leg, to get rid of Parks. By tea, with Hampshire still 49 runs behind and only three wickets left, it seemed all but over.

And so it would have been had Tremlett and Jeffries not both been dropped early in their partnership. Tremlett at slip off Greig and Jeffries at mid-off fell. After that, with the bowlers tiring and the ball ageing and the bat being thrown for the first time in the day, we found ourselves watching, for 90 minutes,

another game.

For so early in the season batting for most of the day really had been awfully awkward, and much of the bowling admirably good. Terry had done most doggedly to bat for two-and-a-half hours, however many times he may have played and missed. But, for Hampshire, it was a story of dashed hopes. To lose as comprehensively as they did, after having had Surrey on the run on the first morning, was very disconcerting for them.

... and probably for their president too: he had taken a box in which to be "at home" today.

SURREY: First Innings 246 (C J Richards 61; C A Corner 47).
Hampshire: First Innings 91.
G S Clinton run out 3
D M Smith not out 56
A J Stewart not out 5
Extras (b 6) 6
Total (for one wicket) 91

SURREY: Second Innings 198.
C J Richards 47
C A Corner 47
G S Clinton 3
D M Smith 56
A J Stewart 5
Extras (b 6) 6
Total (for one wicket) 198

Hampshire: Second Innings 198.
P T Terry 49
C J Richards 47
C A Corner 47
G S Clinton 3
D M Smith 56
A J Stewart 5
Extras (b 6) 6
Total (for one wicket) 198

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-32, 3-38, 4-48, 5-55, 6-57, 7-61, 8-67, 9-71, 10-75, 11-79, 12-83, 13-87, 14-91, 15-95, 16-99, 17-103, 18-107, 19-111, 20-115, 21-119, 22-123, 23-127, 24-131, 25-135, 26-139, 27-143, 28-147, 29-151, 30-155, 31-159, 32-163, 33-167, 34-171, 35-175, 36-179, 37-183, 38-187, 39-191, 40-195, 41-199, 42-203, 43-207, 44-211, 45-215, 46-219, 47-223, 48-227, 49-231, 50-235, 51-239, 52-243, 53-247, 54-251, 55-255, 56-259, 57-263, 58-267, 59-271, 60-275, 61-279, 62-283, 63-287, 64-291, 65-295, 66-299, 67-303, 68-307, 69-311, 70-315, 71-319, 72-323, 73-327, 74-331, 75-335, 76-339, 77-343, 78-347, 79-351, 80-355, 81-359, 82-363, 83-367, 84-371, 85-375, 86-379, 87-383, 88-387, 89-391, 90-395, 91-399, 92-403, 93-407, 94-411, 95-415, 96-419, 97-423, 98-427, 99-431, 100-435, 101-439, 102-443, 103-447, 104-451, 105-455, 106-459, 107-463, 108-467, 109-471, 110-475, 111-479, 112-483, 113-487, 114-491, 115-495, 116-499, 117-503, 118-507, 119-511, 120-515, 121-519, 122-523, 123-527, 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935-3775, 936-3779, 937-3783, 938-3787, 939-3791, 940-3795, 941-3799, 942-3803, 943-3807, 944-3811, 945-3815, 946-3819, 947-3823, 948-3827, 949-3831, 950-3835, 951-3839, 952-3843, 953-3847, 954-3851, 955-3855, 956-3859, 957-3863, 958-3867, 959-3871, 960-3875, 961-3879, 962-3883, 963-3887, 964-3891, 965-3895, 966-3899, 967-3903, 968-3907, 969-3911, 970-3915, 971-3919, 972-3923, 973-3927, 974-3931, 975-3935, 976-3939, 977-3943, 978-3947, 979-3951, 980-3955, 981-3959, 982-3963, 983-3967, 984-3971, 985-3975, 986-3979, 987-3983, 988-3987, 989-3991, 990-3995, 991-3999, 992-4003, 993-4007, 994-4011, 995-4015, 996-4019, 997-4023, 998-4027, 999-4031, 1000-4035, 1001-4039, 1002-4043, 1003-4047, 1004-4051, 1005-4055, 1006-4059, 1007-4063, 1008-4067, 1009-4071, 1010-4075, 1011-4079, 1012-4083, 1013-4087, 1014-4091, 1015-4095, 1016-4099, 1017-4103, 1018-4107, 1019-4111, 1020-4115, 1021-4119, 1022-4123, 1023-4127, 1024-4131, 1025-4135, 1026-4139, 1027-4143, 1028-4147, 1029-4151, 1030-4155, 1031-4159, 1032-4163, 1033-4167, 1034-4171, 1035-4175, 1036-4179, 1037-4183, 1038-4187, 1039-4191, 1040-4195, 1041-4199, 1042-4203, 1043-4207, 1044-4211, 1045-4215, 1046-4219, 1047-4223, 1048-4227, 1049-4231, 1050-4235, 1051-4239, 1052-4243, 1053-4247, 1054-4251, 1055-4255, 1056-4259, 1057-4263, 1058-4267, 1059-4271, 1060-4275, 1061-4279, 1062-4283, 1063-4287, 1064-4291, 1065-4295, 1066-4299, 1067-4303, 1068-4307, 1069-4311, 1070-4315, 1071-4319, 1072-4323, 1073-4327, 1074-4331, 1075-4335, 1076-4339, 107

Hick upstages Botham with show of power

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire, with eight first-innings wickets standing, are 398 behind Worcestershire.

It needed something special to upstage the return of the prodigal Ian Botham and only one man was equipped for the job. Graeme Hick, who must be in danger of exhausting every journalistic superlative before he can even play a Test innings, dominated this gray and wintry day with a double century which converted a few more doubters to the theory that he is potentially the greatest player in the world.

Hick's 212, scored out of 298 in five and three-quarter hours, made a mockery of a pitch tailored far more to the wishes of bowlers than batsmen. Hick, however, is no ordinary batsman. This was his fourth century in consecutive championship matches, three coming at the end of last season; it was the 25th of his career and he is scoring at a rate of better than one every six innings.

Only the greats have ever aspired to such a statistic and, while Hick has hopefully begun his achievements, there seems no end in sight of his development.

This innings will have given him particular pleasure as, in the corresponding game a year ago, he failed twice on a turning pitch. The word in Lancashire was that he had a weakness: Hick was anxious to scotch any such suggestion and did so with such

composed majesty that the opposition gathered admiringly, when it ended, to applaud him all the way back to the pavilion.

He did not give a chance, he offered no more than three false strokes and he never resorted to the slog — this, on a pitch where the ball was still turning a long way, albeit slowly, and where Watkinson and Allott gained some startling movement off the seam.

More cricket, Page 40

Neale, his captain and partner in a fourth wicket stand of 202, batted four and a half hours for his 40.

By comparison, Hick's runs were scored at a rate of almost 40 every hour. He hit four sixes, all thoroughly controlled, and 25 fours. It was the performance of a young master.

Perhaps the greatest compliment to Hick is that no one really minded when Botham failed. It goes without saying that many had come here specifically to see this incorrigible working class hero, but after spending five hours with his pads on, and apparently nursing a headache, he batted only 13 deliveries for three. He was fortunate to make so many, as Fowler had dropped him, first ball, at backward short leg.

It was Botham's awkwardness which put Hick's batting in perspective. Eventually,

Injured Daniel could face a long absence

Wayne Daniel, the Middlesex fast bowler, could be out for several weeks after injuring his back on the opening day of the season.

The former West Indies Test player bowled only three overs against Nottinghamshire at Lord's on Thursday before pulling up.

Daniel seems certain to miss the rest of the match. Middlesex are already fac-

ing the county champions without their opening batsman, Will Slack, who went down with influenza on Wednesday.

Middlesex ended yesterday 59 runs behind Nottinghamshire with nine wickets in hand. The top scorer for Nottinghamshire was Newell, who took more than six hours to scores his 80 runs. Match report, page 40

Folley tempted him with a little flight, he opened those vast shoulders to drive and Hughes pocketed the catch at cover.

The thing about four-day cricket is that there should be no need to rush. Hick and Neale never lost sight of that, foregoing the usual scramble for bonus points in favour of a formidable final total. Time and again, Neale was beaten outside off stump, both Watkinson and Allott suffering regular anguish, but he never lost concentration.

At the end of 100 overs Worcestershire were 261 for three and they batted on mercilessly for almost three hours more while the spinners, Simmons and Folley, added some respectability to their figures. It was Simmons who finally lured out Hick as he advanced against the turning ball, Folley who accounted for both Neale and Botham with spin away from the bat.

Half an hour before the close, Neale declared at the fall of the sprightly Rhodes. This gave Dillley, clearly restored to full fitness, time enough to remove both Fowler and Mendis, in his second over, with balls which lifted sharply. Hick, at third slip, and Radford, at gully, took fine catches to complete a melancholy day for Lancashire.

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WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings
T S Curtis b Folley 48
G A Lord b Simmons 48
G A Hick b Simmons 212
D B D'Oliveira c Mendis b Matthews 11
P A Neale c Folley b Folley 40
S J Rhodes c Mendis b Simmons 28
T B Thomas c Hughes b Folley 40
P J Newport not out 28
Extras (lb 21, w 1, nb 1) 23
Total (for 7 wickets) 409
R K Wignall, N V Radford and G R Dillley did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-70, 2-94, 3-138, 4-340, 5-368, 6-376, 7-409.
LANCASHIRE: First Innings
G Fowler c Hick b Dillley 40
D B D'Oliveira c Radford b Dillley 40
W W Hogg not out 11
T J Leary not out 11
Extras (lb 2) 2
Total (for two wickets) 111
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-5, 3-10, 4-11, 5-12, 6-13, 7-14, 8-15, 9-16, 10-17, 11-18, 12-19, 13-20, 14-21, 15-22, 16-23, 17-24, 18-25, 19-26, 20-27, 21-28, 22-29, 23-30, 24-31, 25-32, 26-33, 27-34, 28-35, 29-36, 30-37, 31-38, 32-39, 33-40, 34-41, 35-42, 36-43, 37-44, 38-45, 39-46, 40-47, 41-48, 42-49, 43-50, 44-51, 45-52, 46-53, 47-54, 48-55, 49-56, 50-57, 51-58, 52-59, 53-60, 54-61, 55-62, 56-63, 57-64, 58-65, 59-66, 60-67, 61-68, 62-69, 63-70, 64-71, 65-72, 66-73, 67-74, 68-75, 69-76, 70-77, 71-78, 72-79, 73-80, 74-81, 75-82, 76-83, 77-84, 78-85, 79-86, 80-87, 81-88, 82-89, 83-90, 84-91, 85-92, 86-93, 87-94, 88-95, 89-96, 90-97, 91-98, 92-99, 93-100, 94-101, 95-102, 96-103, 97-104, 98-105, 99-106, 100-107, 101-108, 102-109, 103-110, 104-111, 105-112, 106-113, 107-114, 108-115, 109-116, 110-117, 111-118, 112-119, 113-120, 114-121, 115-122, 116-123, 117-124, 118-125, 119-126, 120-127, 121-128, 122-129, 123-130, 124-131, 125-132, 126-133, 127-134, 128-135, 129-136, 130-137, 131-138, 132-139, 133-140, 134-141, 135-142, 136-143, 137-144, 138-145, 139-146, 140-147, 141-148, 142-149, 143-150, 144-151, 145-152, 146-153, 147-154, 148-155, 149-156, 150-157, 151-158, 152-159, 153-160, 154-161, 155-162, 156-163, 157-164, 158-165, 159-166, 160-167, 161-168, 162-169, 163-170, 164-171, 165-172, 166-173, 167-174, 168-175, 169-176, 170-177, 171-178, 172-179, 173-180, 174-181, 175-182, 176-183, 177-184, 178-185, 179-186, 180-187, 181-188, 182-189, 183-190, 184-191, 185-192, 186-193, 187-194, 188-195, 189-196, 190-197, 191-198, 192-199, 193-200, 194-201, 195-202, 196-203, 197-204, 198-205, 199-206, 200-207, 201-208, 202-209, 203-210, 204-211, 205-212, 206-213, 207-214, 208-215, 209-216, 210-217, 211-218, 212-219, 213-220, 214-221, 215-222, 216-223, 217-224, 218-225, 219-226, 220-227, 221-228, 222-229, 223-230, 224-231, 225-232, 226-233, 227-234, 228-235, 229-236, 230-237, 231-238, 232-239, 233-240, 234-241, 235-242, 236-243, 237-244, 238-245, 239-246, 240-247, 241-248, 242-249, 243-250, 244-251, 245-252, 246-253, 247-254, 248-255, 249-256, 250-257, 251-258, 252-259, 253-260, 254-261, 255-262, 256-263, 257-264, 258-265, 259-266, 260-267, 261-268, 262-269, 263-270, 264-271, 265-272, 266-273, 267-274, 268-275, 269-276, 270-277, 271-278, 272-279, 273-280, 274-281, 275-282, 276-283, 277-284, 278-285, 279-286, 280-287, 281-288, 282-289, 283-290, 284-291, 285-292, 286-293, 287-294, 288-295, 289-296, 290-297, 291-298, 292-299, 293-300, 294-301, 295-302, 296-303, 297-304, 298-305, 299-306, 300-307, 301-308, 302-309, 303-310, 304-311, 305-312, 306-313, 307-314, 308-315, 309-316, 310-317, 311-318, 312-319, 313-320, 314-321, 315-322, 316-323, 317-324, 318-325, 319-326, 320-327, 321-328, 322-329, 323-330, 324-331, 325-332, 326-333, 327-334, 328-335, 329-336, 330-337, 331-338, 332-339, 333-340, 334-341, 335-342, 336-343, 337-344, 338-345, 339-346, 340-347, 341-348, 342-349, 343-350, 344-351, 345-352, 346-353, 347-354, 348-355, 349-356, 350-357, 351-358, 352-359, 353-360, 354-361, 355-362, 356-363, 357-364, 358-365, 359-366, 360-367, 361-368, 362-369, 363-370, 364-371, 365-372, 366-373, 367-374, 368-375, 369-376, 370-377, 371-378, 372-379, 373-380, 374-381, 375-382, 376-383, 377-384, 378-385, 379-386, 380-387, 381-388, 382-389, 383-390, 384-391, 385-392, 386-393, 387-394, 388-395, 389-396, 390-397, 391-398, 392-399, 393-400, 394-401, 395-402, 396-403, 397-404, 398-405, 399-406, 400-407, 401-408, 402-409, 403-410, 404-411, 405-412, 406-413, 407-414, 408-415, 409-416, 410-417, 411-418, 412-419, 413-420, 414-421, 415-422, 416-423, 417-424, 418-425, 419-426, 420-427, 421-428, 422-429, 423-430, 424-431, 425-432, 426-433, 427-434, 428-435, 429-436, 430-437, 431-438, 432-439, 433-440, 434-441, 435-442, 436-443, 437-444, 438-445, 439-446, 440-447, 441-448, 442-449, 443-450, 444-451, 445-452, 446-453, 447-454, 448-455, 449-456, 450-457, 451-458, 452-459, 453-460, 454-461, 455-462, 456-463, 457-464, 458-465, 459-466, 460-467, 461-468, 462-469, 463-470, 464-471, 465-472, 466-473, 467-474, 468-475, 469-476, 470-477, 471-478, 472-479, 473-480, 474-481, 475-482, 476-483, 477-484, 478-485, 479-486, 480-487, 481-488, 482-489, 483-490, 484-491, 485-492, 486-493, 487-494, 488-495, 489-496, 490-497, 491-498, 492-499, 493-500, 494-501, 495-502, 496-503, 497-504, 498-505, 499-506, 500-507, 501-508, 502-509, 503-510, 504-511, 505-512, 506-513, 507-514, 508-515, 509-516, 510-517, 511-518, 512-519, 513-520, 514-521, 515-522, 516-523, 517-524, 518-525, 519-526, 520-527, 521-528, 522-529, 523-530, 524-531, 525-532, 526-533, 527-534, 528-535, 529-536, 530-537, 531-538, 532-539, 533-540, 534-541, 535-542, 536-543, 537-544, 538-545, 539-546, 540-547, 541-548, 542-549, 543-550, 544-551, 545-552, 546-553, 547-554, 548-555, 549-556, 550-557, 551-558, 552-559, 553-560, 554-561, 555-562, 556-563, 557-564, 558-565, 559-566, 560-567, 561-568, 562-569, 563-570, 564-571, 565-572, 566-573, 567-574, 568-575, 569-576, 570-577, 571-578, 572-579, 573-580, 574-581, 575-582, 576-583, 577-584, 578-585, 579-586, 580-587, 581-588, 582-589, 583-590, 584-591, 585-592, 586-593, 587-594, 588-595, 589-596, 590-597, 591-598, 592-599, 593-600, 594-601, 595-602, 596-603, 597-604, 598-605, 599-606, 600-607, 601-608, 602-609, 603-610, 604-611, 605-612, 606-613, 607-614, 608-615, 609-616, 610-617, 611-618, 612-619, 613-620, 614-621, 615-622, 616-623, 617-624, 618-625, 619-626, 620-627, 621-628, 622-629, 623-630, 624-631, 625-632, 626-633, 627-634, 628-635, 629-636, 630-637, 631-638, 632-639, 633-640, 634-641, 635-642, 636-643, 637-644, 638-645, 639-646, 640-647, 641-648, 642-649, 643-650, 644-651, 645-652, 646-653, 647-654, 648-655, 649-656, 650-657, 651-658, 652-659, 653-660, 654-661, 655-662, 656-663, 657-664, 658-665, 659-666, 660-667, 661-668, 662-669, 663-670, 664-671, 665-672, 666-673, 667-674, 668-675, 669-676, 670-677, 671-678, 672-679, 673-680, 674-681, 675-682, 676-683, 677-684, 678-685, 679-686, 680-687, 681-688, 682-689, 683-690, 684-691, 685-692, 686-693, 687-694, 688-695, 689-696, 690-697, 691-698, 692-699, 693-700, 694-701, 695-702, 696-703, 697-704, 698-705, 699-706, 700-707, 701-708, 702-709, 703-710, 704-711, 705-712, 706-713, 707-714, 708-715, 709-716, 710-717, 711-718, 712-719, 713-720, 714-721, 715-722, 716-723, 717-724, 718-725, 719-726, 720-727, 721-728, 722-729, 723-730, 724-731, 725-732, 726-733, 727-734, 728-735, 729-736, 730-737, 731-738, 732-739, 733-740, 734-741, 735-742, 736-743, 737-744, 738-745, 739-746, 740-747, 741-748, 742-749, 743-750, 744-751, 745-752, 746-753, 747-754, 748-755, 749-756, 750-757, 751-758, 752-759, 753-760, 754-761, 755-762, 756-763, 757-764, 758-765, 759-766, 760-767, 761-768, 762-769, 763-770, 764-771, 765-772, 766-773, 767-774, 768-775, 769-776, 770-777, 771-778, 772-779, 773-780, 774-781, 775-782, 776-783, 777-784, 778-785, 779-786, 780-787, 781-788, 782-789, 783-790, 784-791, 785-792, 786-793, 787-794, 788-795, 789-796, 790-797, 791-798, 792-799, 793-800, 794-801, 795-802, 796-803, 797-804, 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Century-maker: Hick makes a mockery of a bowler's pitch

Budd decision seems likely to be deferred

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

It now seems highly unlikely, following the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) communiqué yesterday, that there will be any decision taken on Zola Budd's future at the board council meeting in London tomorrow.

After its own council meeting in London last weekend, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) virtually instructed the BAAB to suspend Budd for a year, with the threat that the BAAB itself — and all British athletes — would be suspended if the advice was not taken. The board was given a month to comply.

The BAAB immediately called the council meeting, now effectively preempted by the statement yesterday, which suggests that the BAAB's officers "carry out further investigations in conjunction with the Women's AAA, so that the BAAB is in a position to determine Miss Budd's eligibility under IAAF rules".

The rest of the statement consists of further temporizing, along with lip service to the IAAF constitution. All of which reads like little more than an act of defiance on the part of the BAAB, which now seems ready to take out the rest of the month before it follows the IAAF instruction, as it must surely do.

For, as John Bryant, Budd's coach, drily pointed out yesterday: "We've already been

along to the BAAB's offices twice, and satisfied them twice, as to the question of her eligibility."

This has now devolved into a face-off between the IAAF and the BAAB, and begs the question as to just who is leading whom in this unmythical dance. It is certainly not quite what Dr Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, had in mind four years ago when he began his regular references to the 182 member nations of the IAAF as the "athletics family". It seems that, somewhere along the line, Johnny Speight took over the script.

Similar to-ing and fro-ing between the IAAF and the BAAB over Budd's eligibility to run in the world cross-country championship last month was temporarily resolved by the athlete pulling herself out of the race.

It is now as if all parties are looking to see her standing barefoot in the wings, waiting to come on and dance the dying swan again. The only problem this time is that the bird is likely to appear centre stage, carrying an injunction under its wing.

For, if the BAAB has taken legal advice on the constitutional soundness of the IAAF's "request" to suspend Budd, so have Budd and Bryant. And Bryant said yesterday: "We have been to see our lawyers again today, and they are adamant that we have the strongest possible case."

Hallett misses out on few chances

By Steve Acton

Steve Davis produced incisive snooker to defeat Mike Hallett 13-1 with a full session to spare